

SANFORD J. DURET

New → 29-28 41st Ave, LIC, NY 11101

MESSAGE

REPLY

TO

Eric Whitman
6450 Cook Avenue

DATE

St Louis, Mo 63105

DATE

10/29 /72

Dear Eric —

would like to return the External Count
of Virginia. Since I already have requested
Miller, State Comm of Gaming; Morris, NJ;
Ryder & Slater, Vermont; Ryder Massachusetts
Can you supply the update we have desired?
Also returned in 1964 Book updated, Do you
have the copyright back from Whitman?

BT

SIGNED

RECIPIENT: KEEP THIS COPY. RETURN WHITE COPY TO SENDER

SUMMER, 1988

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Newman, Eric P., *Coinage for Colonial Virginia*, The American Numismatic Society, 1956, published as *Numismatic Notes and Monographs*, #135, 57 pages, 6 superb plates. About two-thirds of the book is devoted to background information on the Virginia pieces, the other third being used to describe, in detail, the separate varieties. Like all of Newman's work, thoroughly researched, well-written and presented. The standard reference on the series, highly recommended. Copies, when found, sell for around \$25-30.

Newman, Eric P., *The Secret of the Good Samaritan Shilling*. The American numismatic Society, 1959, originally published as *Numismatic Notes and Monographs*, #142, 71 pages, 9 superb plates. This work ranks as one of the best Numismatic detective stories of all time. Newman diligently uncovers the background of the Good Samaritan Shilling and the various copies, all of which created a sensation in nineteenth century numismatics. His arguments are sound, and the final conclusion logical. Like any good mystery, you'll have to read it carefully to see "Whodunnit." Also describes and depicts several varieties of counterfeit and fabricated Massachusetts silver, and a few previously unlisted genuine varieties. highly recommended for its importance, entertainment value and as a first-rate example of how numismatic research ought to be done! Copies are a bit difficult to find, generally commanding around \$35-40.

Noe, Sydney P., *The New England and Willow Tree Coinage of Massachusetts*, The American Numismatic Society, 1943, originally published as *Numismatic Notes and Monographs*, #102, 55 pages, 16 excellent gravure plates. The standard reference on the series, it goes into background detail and presents descriptions and plates of all known varieties. Quite scarce, perhaps the hardest to find of the Massachusetts silver trilogy, copies sell for around \$40.

Noe Sydney P., *The Oak Tree Coinage of Massachusetts*, The American Numismatic Society, New York, NY, 1947, 23 pages, ten gravure plates, originally published as *Numismatic Notes and Monographs* #110. The second volume of the trilogy, it again presents background data and die descriptions and illustrations. An invaluable tool. Copies usually sell for \$30 or so.

Noe, Sydney P., *The Pine Tree Coinage of Massachusetts*, The American Numismatic Society, 1952 originally published as *Numismatic Notes and Monographs*, #125, 48 pages 11 gravure plates. The final component of the trilogy, it goes into great detail, giving background information, notes on hoards, fabrications and witch pieces, presents a chronological sequence, and describes and plates all varieties. Copies generally sell for \$25-35.

Noe, Sydney P., *The Silver Coinage of Massachusetts*, Lawrence, Massachusetts, 1973, 260 pages 51 plates. A collected reprint of the Noe works, this volume is probably to be preferred by researchers. An excellent reprint, the all-important plates are of a uniformly high quality. Now out of print copies are available at around \$30.

Pine Tree Auction Company, Inc., *The Early American Coppers Society Convention Public Auction Sale*, February 15, 1975, 134 pages, 34 full page plates, illustrating hundreds of coins. The famous EAC '75 catalogue, listed here because of its usefulness as a reference book in the field of Connecticut coppers. With superb cataloging by Walter Breen, a whole new classification system was evolved. One of the modern rarities, copies generally fetch between \$60-125. As almost every variety of CT copper is plated, this catalogue is well worth the price. The updated rarity and condition census data is invaluable for the collector or researcher in Connecticut and Vermont coppers, as well as half and large cents, and early copper error coinage.

Prime, W.C., *Coins, Medals, and Seals, Ancient and Modern. Illustrated and Described. With a Sketch of the History of Coins and Coinage. Instructions for Young Collectors. Tables of Comparative Rarity, Price Lists of English and American Coins, Medals and Tokens &c., &c.* New York, NY 1861, 294

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

9/25/86

Q David Bowers
Mike Hodder

Do either of you know a serious collector
of Virginia halfpence by variety or perhaps
where a large variety collection of them may be

I have been asked to revise my
monograph with its supplements for
republication. All I need is pictures
of varieties which are better than those I
had thirty years ago and the die combinations.

Any suggestion would be most
appreciated. Are you planning anything
on these varieties? I have no commitment
for anything and have an open mind.

My best

Eric

PS

I will be in Europe for
about 3 weeks

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THE COLONIAL NEWSLETTER FOUNDATION

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P.O.Box 4411
Huntsville, Alabama 35802

January 15, 1988

Mr. Eric P. Newman
6450 Cecil Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63105

Dear Eric:

This letter is a followup to my letter of December 22, 1987 in which I requested weights data on the Fugio Cents of 1787 from CNL Patrons. The response so far is very encouraging and the enclosures indicate the progress being made in this area. If you have not yet responded to my request, I urge you to do so as quickly as possible in order that we can have statistically significant quantities of data, by individual die variety, for the preliminary publication of results scheduled for the next issue of CNL.

Also, Eric, I am including a histogram for 33 specimens of VIRGINIA Coppers of 1773. There are only two CNL Patrons who indicate an interest in this series, so it is not very actively collected. I recall that you sent me a notice some time ago, a year or so I believe, that indicated that you were planning a revision to your work on the Virginia series. If you have weights data on that series that you would like for me to run through the computer to generate the type of results that I am obtaining, I will be happy to do so. The program that does this is quite complicated; however, now that I have developed it I simply enter the data sequentially and the computer does all the rest. The variety of analysis and graphical output is essentially unlimited. Just tell the program what you would like to see and it does it.

Best regards,
THE COLONIAL NEWSLETTER



James C. Spilman

THE COLONIAL NEWSLETTER FOUNDATION, Inc.

12051 BBI-8678

P.O. Box 4411
Huntsville, Alabama 35802

March 11, 1988

Mr. Eric F. Newman
6450 Decal Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63105

Dear Eric:

SUBJECT: Virginia Halfpence of 1773

This letter is, more or less, a continuation of my letter to you of March 2, 1988. Another of the projects of which I am working is a scanning system whereby photographic images are scanned into the computer and then enhanced and modified electronically instead of by the usual photographic methods. I cannot send you any samples as I am not yet at that stage in development, but I anticipate that I will have a fully implemented system on line within the next six to nine months. I briefly mentioned the scanner in my March 2 letter.

I am considering incorporating continuous tone photographic plates in your Virginia revision. A problem with this series is the attribution of specimens by dis variety and I believe that this method will help solve that problem. I expect to be able to enhance these images electronically, as well, prior to publication with the system mentioned earlier and I will be doing considerable experimentation associated with getting the system operational. It would be very helpful Eric if you could send me a set of glossy photographs, or negatives, of the Virginia specimens and I will use these for the experiments in getting the system operational. When completed, if all works out as I anticipate, this system will also be capable of scanning coins directly into the computer without any conventional photography whatever and should produce superior images to any photographic process. Time will tell, however!

Best regards,
THE COLONIAL NEWSLETTER



James E. Spilman

William N. Veach
2238 Loch Lomond Drive
Vienna, Virginia 22181
Hm Ph: (703) 938-7673
24 December 1989

The American Numismatic Society
c/o Mr. Eric P. Newman
Broadway at 156th Street
New York, N.Y. 10032

Dear Mr. Newman:

I want to thank you for your courtesy of autographing my acquisition of the last available copy of your "Coinage For Colonial Virginia", 1956.

This work is vital enough to the integrity and survival of these few unique specimens of historic early American monetary developemnt that a second edition or "Bicentennial" edition of the "roots" of legal American coinage should be considered. I've thoroughly enjoyed pouring over it.

It is amazing how few individuals know that these copper coins were actually struck in England, that there are more differences than some obverses having no period after "GEORGIVS", or that the number of strings in the harp on the reverse, can be 6 or 7, much less 8. Of course, you have probably long ago figured out why there are the different number of harp strings on the different reverse dies. It just came to me, all of a sudden. Not many of the coin dealers seem to have any personal interest or appreciation of how very special these 216 year old relics really are. These halfpenny's were surely handled, in day-to-day commerce, by the very men who wrote the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the United States. I can see Ben Franklin now, down at the local pub, buying a pint of ale for everyone in the house with just one copper halfpenny.

The good folks over at the Smithsonian are very familiar with your work on this subject. Several of them spoke of this publication as "the" most thorough and informative reference ever written on the colonial Virginia halfpenny. Unfortunately, I could only find a copy to read in the Library of Congress, before I found that last copy up at ANS. This publication needs greater availability to the public. This subject of colonial Virginia copper halfpenny's is not a closed matter, even today.

I have a little surprise for you! I've come across a 1773 colonial Virginia copper halfpenny with an obverse and a reverse quite unique and different from any of those depicted in your book. It is not likely a fake. It is unique. It is the only one of its kind that I've ever seen. It has many of the normal and frequent characteristics of both the obverses and reverses of those varities you have listed. Oddly enough, it is the very first Virginia halfpenny that I ever acquired - - - over 14 years ago.

However, I had only recently discovered how to accurately identify each of the numerous varities, after intensely studying your examples.

And while I've spent many hours studying the magnified varieties, comparing and contrasting every intimate detail of each side of these coppers, I defer to you as the expert, of course. It has been extremely exciting to find a private form of mystery, adventure and joy of investigating each of these coins, as well as, perhaps finding something "new". New in the sense that it is something distinct that has yet to be noticed and related to in print.

Perhaps you have or someone else has found this same "new" variety, also, since your 1956 publication. If so, fine. Then perhaps my find will help to confirm someone else's discovery. Knowledge is not something to be selfish about. Where would I be today without the insight that you shared with everyone (who was interested) in your book? So, I feel that I owe it to you, first and foremost, to tell you that I am looking at this "new" specimen as I write. Oh, were it an "Unc", I wish! But, no - - - it is a lower grade "veteran" that has seen hard wear and honest labor in its daily colonial commercial use. *

General Description: (Large planchet)

Overall size: 66/64ths of an inch - horizontally. *

64/64ths " " " - vertically.

Thickness: Normal (4/64ths) / Edge: Normal, not smooth

Obverse: "No Period"

Condition: Fine - - -

All characters readable.

Both periods visible. Chin, lips, cheeks, eye, nose, eyebrow, top laurel leaves, both curls and bow are clearly visible.

Faults: Nick in obverse edge of rim between "R" and "E" of REX. This nick appears to be the origin of a possible "crack" in the obverse only, ending under the ear. *

2 Periods: Measure: 27 1/2 64ths (shortest, ever!)

Reverse: "8 Strings" (looking very closely)

Condition: Extra Fine - - -

All characters clearly readable.

(Reverse better protected by rim)

Denticles evident along 75% of rim.

* Coin seems to have been run over by heavy wagon wheel or cannon wheel.

The heart of this matter lies in one major difference on this coin's obverse: the "III" and the "." following it are located opposite the King's forehead and bridge of his nose, leaving the "." almost directly opposite the tip of his nose. More precisely, when you draw a straight line through the ribbon tied around the King's hair, his ear lobe, and the tip of his nose, it comes just under the "period". Likewise, when you draw a straight line through the ribbon tied around the King's hair, his ear, and his eyebrow, it comes just under the second "I" of "III", unlike on the obverse of any other depicted in your book, for either "no period" or even "with a period".

The fact that the "III" and "." following it are located so far down the right hand edge of the obverse that the resulting measurement between the two periods equals only 27 1/2 64ths of an inch - - - (shortest, ever) creates a distinctive and unique obverse variety unlike any already listed.

Additional obverse characteristics of this "new" variety are as follows:

1. In "GEORGIVS":
 - a) "G" is far from "E".
 - b) "O" is nearer to "E" than to "R".
 - b) "R" is very close to "G", and
 - c) "V" is above the baseline.
2. The "III" :
 - a) First "I" tilts to left.
 - b) Base of first "I" is slightly lower than "III" baseline.
 - c) "III" is located opposite the King's forehead and bridge of his nose.
3. The "." :
 - a) Is nearer to "I" than to "R".
 - b) Is directly opposite the King's nose.
 - c) Is centered after "III".
4. "REX" :
 - a) "E" is nearer to "X" than to "R".
 - b) "X" higher than normal baseline.
5. The "X" :
 - a) Period after "X" is very close to both "X" and the curl, equidistant.
 - b) Period is centered after the "X".
6. 2 Periods :
 - a) The very short measurement between the 2 periods of $27 \frac{1}{2}$ 64ths of an inch is uniquely unlike any other measurement on any other obverse ever before listed.

The reverse of this "new" Virginia halfpenny is also unlike any other reverse ever listed or classified before, including all with 6, 7, or 8 harp strings. There just isn't a Newman reverse type that has the unique intimate details of this "new" reverse. Other characteristics are:

1. Harp : It has 8 strings.
2. "73" : Absolutely none of the other reverses, 6, 7, or 8 string harp has the same distinct "gap" between the "7" and the "3".
 - a) "7" next to "3" sits slightly higher than the "3".
 - b) Top of "7" slopes down toward "3", while the vertical shaft of the "7" tilts to the left, almost touching the crown.
 - c) This creates a wider than normal "gap" between the bases of "7" and the "3".
 - d) The "3" itself actually sits lower than it should for its normal baseline.

- 3, "VIRGI" : a) "V" is not low, does not touch leaf, but the top tilts to the right.
b) Other letters are spaced equally, except "G" is close to the "I".
c) The right leg of "R" is slightly high.
d) The "G" is lower and tilts to right. It has no "curl" at the top.
e) The second "I" is larger than the first or third "I" and it touches the arms.
4. Horse : a) Four legs weakly struck.
5. Lions : a) Large lion touches vertical line.
b) Third small lion touches branch.
6. "NIA" : a) "N" nearly touches arms.
b) "N" is distant from "I".
c) Base of "I" in "NIA" is shifted to the right slightly.
d) Consequently, third "I" is parallel to the horizontal divider of the arms.
e) Period after "A" is slightly higher than center line, with normal spacing.
7. CROWN JEWELS : a) Number of jewels on left side of crown is 10. Number on right is 9 jewels.

I hope that (ultimately/after inspecting this new specimen) you will want to include this "new" variety (set) of obverse/reverse in your list of official varieties. Unless you've added other "no period" varieties already, this might become # 10 obverse, and perhaps letter "V", as another 8 string harp reverse.

Of course, this is up to you. It's your creation.

I only hope that you might be just half as elated to receive this (good) news, as I am to pass my findings on to you.

Suppose that I'd never read your book carefully enough to notice this "new" variety. Neither of us would now feel that a new road has been opened on our maps. And now, others may find, especially through more careful inspection of the many lower grade specimens they find, that this new variety is out there. But they are probably very scarce. Perhaps fewer than 250 exist.

As a matter of fact, you were obviously pretty thorough when you researched and found all those different combinations of the various die varieties within each respective category of obverse and reverse. All of my other Virginia halfpenny's have conformed to your current (1956) list of variety combinations, until this one unique exception.

And as you created specific allowances for adding new varieties by leaving gaps in the (obverse) numbering system and the (reverse) lettering system, you were obviously way ahead of everyone, and still are.

I can't help but think that new and additional information could now be included in an update to your earlier book. New information on any additional variety combinations and what ever insight may have developed over these past 33 years on the estimated original mintage of each variety combination, full or split. This data, the respective impact of the infamous "melting pot" affect on those original mintages for each variety combination, could be the first meaningful basis for evaluation of each individual Virginia halfpenny: first by variety (set) and second: by the grade and quality of appearance, instead of seeing all varieties treated as one for novelty collectors. Whenever I mention "variety" to a coin dealer, they just shake their head and pretend to deny that variety is of any importance. They don't understand the significance of variety differences and they don't want to be required to learn.

At this time, I'd like to diplomatically tell you that I have found a small discrepancy among the reverse "images" depicted on the last pages of your book. It appears that reverse type "N" (7 strings) actually has 8 strings, while reverse type "Z" (8 strings) actually has only 7 strings. The "larger" "G" with the top "curled up" is described as being (only) on reverse "N" but in fact appears on the image marked "Z". Somehow, these two must have gotten switched in the photographing session. I happened to notice because I have a variety combination of 20-"N".

In regard to the various circumstances that might have led to the limited existence of my orphan halfpenny variety combination, I suspect that the art of minting was somewhat still in its infancy, even in England. This is supported by the poor alignment and varying size of letters and symbols on all of the varieties. Indeed, had all the working dies been created from a single set of "source" dies, then the number of varieties would have been limited to striking errors. Along with poor planning of the planchet size (most seemed undersized) and the resulting lack of denticles or visible rim, even on uncirculated specimens, I would guess that some of the working die sets self-destructed after they produced only a small number of that variety. The dies were possibly trashed outright in order to remove any evidence of their incompetence and poor workmanship, or they were recast/rebuild out of the sheer urgency for more working dies.

Without such dies as a reference you could not have known the details of such a variety unless you happened to find one of those "very few" surviving coins. But then, wouldn't they have gotten rid of those few coins, also? No, for two reasons. First, they would have already "mixed" variety and planchet sizes while bagging, due to weight necessary to "account" for each bag of coins to be shipped, and second, all scrap or minting errors had to be accounted for and explained. I believe a limit was set on wastage of the copper to be used. So they would just let the few coins "mix".

Now, a "few coins" could mean 300 or 3000. More than 3000 coins would no longer be a "few coins". Judging from the total number of (full) variety sets, 15, divided into the 672,000 pieces of copper received in the colonial Commonwealth of Virginia, each set would have produced an average of 49,000 coins, in its lifetime, with adjusted totals for any rebuilt dies.

As for the dies used to make my "new" variety, I would also guess that both the obverse and the reverse "went to pieces" at about the same time. And, that is probably why neither the obverse nor the reverse ever popped up before this day (to my knowledge) or to have been included in your 1956 list and "coupled" with any other of the varieties.

While it is true that the general irregularities of letter and symbol of my new variety's reverse appear to be similar to those on many of the other reverses, there actually isn't one with the exact same combination of these distinctly unique details or the wide gap between the "7" and the "3", in the date.

Since my little "orphan" coin appears to be one of a kind, within my altogether limited access to the colonial Virginia copper halfpenny world, I would appreciate any light you may be able to shed on the accuracy of this supposition.

Meanwhile, I'm continuing to search for any and all information on the subject of these vanguard Virginia coppers. For instance, how many ardent collectors of colonial Virginia coins are there in the U.S. that know what they are (really) doing? How many sellers of these coins are even aware of the significance of "variety"? Until every seller at least understands that there is an important difference between variety combinations, these coins will never begin to be appreciated for their individual intrinsic value among numismatic collectors.

A valuation table needs to be established as an integral foundation for these coins to change hands with some semblance of value relevant to their original mintage, their casualty rate since, and the approximate number to be found as true uncirculated, for each variety combination. Of course, a specimen of exceptional quality would command a much higher valuation.

In a world of almost total apathy toward variety distinctions for the colonial Virginia copper halfpenny, I have had to "create" my own "PHOENIX" valuation chart, with estimated original mintage quantities and the approximate affect of the melting pot, for each individual die variety combination. The values set for each respective grade (average quality) are based on experience of actual and proposed sales from a great variety of sources and in light of what the scarcity should allow such a specimen to bring in the open competitive market place.

I now "live and die" by the values on this chart. It is not fixed in time, permanently, but is rather an open-end approach to learn truer values through greater knowledge of each variety, especially new ones.

These valuations are weighted towards the lower mintages remaining after the affects of the "melting pot" and other losses due to nature. Certain obverse dies that were matched up with more than one reverse probably meant that the reverses didn't last for the normal 49,000 coin production rate. Hence, a smaller mintage for that variety combination!

Learning the significance of the various number of strings* on the harp of the reverse, lead to the following rearrangement of the die variety combinations, in the approximate order of the production cycle. (From your die variety listing - - - and researched information)

Variety	Harp	w/	pd.	
I - A	6	No	- -	Only a few "sample" coins made.
9 - B	6	No		* Only reverse die "created" in June-1773. (For actual coin production)
4 - G	7	No		* All of the 7 string harp reverses
4 - O	7	No		were "created" in July-1773.
4 - P	7	No		
7 - D	7	No		Several reverses were necessary to match
8 - H	7	No		with the # 4 Obverse.
2 - E	7	No		
3 - F	7	No		
23 - Q	7	Yes	- -	Reverse problems also developed with # 23.
23 - R	7	Yes		
24 - K	7	Yes		
22 - S	7	Yes		
25 - M	7	Yes		
27 - J	7	Yes		
20 - N	7	Yes	- -	Obverse problems developed with "N" Rev.
21 - N	7	Yes		
20 - X	8	No	- -	* All of the 8 string harp Rev.'s: Aug-1773. Obverse problems with "X" Rev.
6 - X	8	No		
[10 - V]	8	No	- -	Disaster with both Obv. & Rev. dies.
26 - Y	8	No	- -	Excellent mintage numbers.
5 - Z	8 }	No	- -	Rev. die problems with # 5.
5 - B	6 }	No	- -	Old 6 string, "B" Rev. "revitalized". in order to "finish the job".
"RM" Rev.	9	N/A	- -	*** Not struck. Created in September.

The above possible sequence of die combinations used by the London Tower Mint is not meant to be precise, but rather the general idea. Yet, note - - - the unusual sequence (unintentional) of the "no period" and "with period" die combinations used. There's a story there, too, no doubt.

As the production of dies began in late June and throughout July in order to be "ready" for production to begin, only one 6 string harp reverse and many 7 string harp reverses were created by the die maker. It just may have been estimated that those initial dies would be enough to finish the entire job. However, with the continued problems with low production from so many of the dies, the die maker left "his mark" (8 strings) on the additional dies that he made during late August and they apparently lasted in use almost to the very end.

Then the disaster with the 8 string reverse/obverse [10 - V] occurred, causing the "RM" reverse to be created in September-1773. But, it wasn't ever needed, thanks to the use of the revitalized reverse "B" & obv. # 5.

This has been a long letter. But, I've had a lot to relate to you. I could have saved some of it for another letter. However, it is probably better to see all of this subject matter all at once.

You may not agree with all of my contentions. That's all right. Most of what I've said is of the nature of observation. How does any one know for absolutely certain that anything is exactly as we see it. Since "we see it" only from a single point of view - - - unless we confer with one another for varying views. I welcome your comments.

Since I do not trust the U.S. Mail with my "orphan", I could send a photo of the obverse and the reverse if you wish. I've recently found a man who says he's "the best" at photographing coin details. He will need to be, because coppers, much less lower grades, are very difficult to get a good resolution of the details, which are so very important in this case.

If you are ever in the Washington, DC area, you might want to drop by at the Pentagon (Phone: (202) 695-0352) to see the coin. I've usually got the "orphan" near by. Or you would be most welcome to drop by at my home, any time.

May this letter brighten your New Year. Hope to hear from you soon.

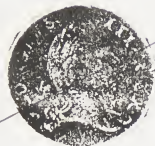
Sincerely,

William N. Veach
WILLIAM N. VEACH

THIS IS BEST I COULD GET OF MY "ORPHAN"

COPIES (MAGNIFIED 122%)

NO PERIOD TYPE ... [10-V]



NO PERIOD
TYPE ... [10-V]
ACTUAL
SIZE



NO PERIOD
TYPE...[10-V]

ACTUAL
SIZE



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THE COLONIAL NEWSLETTER FOUNDATION, Inc.

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(205) 881-8678

P.O.Box 4411
Huntsville, Alabama 35802

June 16, 1990

Mr. Eric P. Newman
6450 Cecil Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63105

Dear Eric:

Thank you for your letter of June 11 and May 21 regarding the Virginia Halfpence of 1773. Whatever you and William Veach decide to do will be OK with me.

Let me outline, however, my experience with this series in recent years. Attached is a list of the eight specimens in my collection. Also attached is a tabulation of the varieties known to me, today; this list does not contain any varieties that were not included in your two original ANS publications. If there are later discoveries, I do not know of them.

A couple of years ago I decided to build a die variety reference collection of the Virginia Halfpence. I discovered that it was almost impossible for the following reasons:

- (1) Dealers do not attempt to attribute specimens by die variety. They do not know how! Only B&M and Stack's will, on special occasion, do so!
- (2) The excuse is that they are unable to obtain the reference works from ANS.
- (3) Those who have the references say the photographs are unsuitable for attribution. In general, I agree with this observation. However, from what little work I have accomplished I have concluded that because of the relatively excellence of British die workmanship, every variety contains some specific diagnostic that almost always (except on worn specimens) presents a positive identification feature.
- (4) Only 3 CML Patrons list an interest in this series. So far as I have been able to determine there are less than six people in the U.S. who are die variety collectors.

What is most needed today, from a collector's point of view, is a current listing of die variety, rarity, & interlocking and a set of enlarged glossy photos. Halftone photographs, no matter how fine the screen, are not satisfactory for attributing these things, in my opinion.

Find all records that contain VIRGINIA

Press @-F to change Find.

INVEN	SERIES	VARIETY	TYPE or YEAR	GRADE	COST	RAR \$	VALUE
1020	VIRGINIA	Newman 25-M	1773	BU	JC+	1	
1024	VIRGINIA	Newman 27-J	1773	RED UNC	CJ	2	
1025	VIRGINIA	Newman 3-F	1773	EF	SJ	4	
1093	VIRGINIA	Newman 9-B	1773	EF	JPD	3	
1094	VIRGINIA	Newman 4-G	1773	RED UNC	CM1	5	
1095	VIRGINIA	Newman 27-J	1773	RED UNC	FOI	2	
1096	VIRGINIA	Newman 27-J	1773	RED UNC	SLJ	2	
1097	VIRGINIA	Newman 4-P	1773	GLOSSY	PPS	6	

Type entry or use @ commands

@-? for Help

File: VIRGINIA HalfPn
Report: Virginia Halfpence

Page
May 20, 1961

Variety	GEO period	Harpstrings	RARITY
1-A	NO	6	8
2-E	NO	7	8
3-F	NO	7	4
4-P	NO	7	6
4-O	NO	7	4
4-G	NO	7	5
5-Z	NO	8	6
5-B	NO	6	6
6-X	NO	8	4
7-D	NO	7	4
8-H	NO	7	3
9-B	NO	6	3
10-W	NO	8	5
11-D	NO	7	7
12-W	NO	8	7
13-V	NO	8	8
13-T	NO	7	8
15-D	YES; Low	7	7
20-X	YES	8	4
20-N	YES	7	4
21-N	YES	7	8
22-S	YES	7	3
23-R	YES	7	5
23-Q	YES	7	2
24-K	YES	7	1
25-M	YES	7	1
26-Y	YES	8	2
27-J	YES	7	2

Colonial Virginias

By Bill McAllister

WHEN William N. Veach of Vienna spotted the word "Virginia" around the crest on a dark brown coin that carried a garlanded portrait of King George III, he said to himself: "Boy, this is neat . . . This has some heritage to it."

That was 1975 and for \$35—"next to nothing," Veach recalls—he bought the coin. Fascinated that his native state had produced its own coinage in Colonial times, Veach began an effort to research the coin's background, a search that 17 years later has made the Pentagon worker one of the leading authorities on what he simply calls "the Virginias."

Minted in England in 1773, the copper Virginia halfpence was the first authorized legal coinage of Colonial America. The Massachusetts Bay Colony may have established its own mint in 1652 and Lord Baltimore coins may have been authorized for Maryland in 1662, but as Veach and other numismatic experts point out, those coins did not have the crown's sanction.

That's only one reason why Veach, a budget officer for the Ar-

my, said he has been consumed by the lure of the Virginias. In the process, he has helped Eric P. Newman, a Colonial coin expert from St. Louis, track down 32 varieties of the coins. Earlier this year, with the help of five Northern Virginia legislators, Veach got the Virginia General Assembly to issue a resolution of commendation honoring Newman for his "exhaustive research" into the origins of the coins.

"He's the one who did all the work," said Veach. Without Newman, little would be known about the 672,000 copper coins that arrived in the colony in 1774 aboard a ship appropriately called Virginia. The coins remained in storage until 50 days before the Revolution.

Even now, 36 years after Newman published his first paper on the coins, Veach said most coin dealers know little about the Virginias. That is a shortcoming Veach hopes to correct with an annual newsletter that places a market value on the different varieties.

"Some are quite common and some very expensive," said Veach. At the high end, Veach has valued the 19 trial copies of the coins, which were not designed for circulation, at \$17,500 each, and other varieties at as low as \$55. Veach said he based his pricing on how many of the different varieties are believed to have survived.

The coins have been discovered among the foundations of old build-

ings in Colonial Williamsburg, in Old Town Alexandria and as far away as New England, Veach said. The discoveries in New England illustrate that the coins were well used in Colonial commerce, something that gives added credibility to the coins as instruments of trade. "If you find one extremely worn, it's passed through a lot of hands," he said.

"A lot of them have been very well protected" and many are in excellent condition, Veach said. Most are medium to dark brown, but some appear olive and others, which apparently were in water for some time, are green, he said.

Many of the better coins are presumed by collectors to have come from a hoard discovered more than 130 years ago in Richmond. Those coins, allegedly in their original keg and in "bright red" uncirculated condition, were said to have been sold slowly until 1929, when 2,200 coins were sold in a single lot.

Relatively few of the rarer varieties are showing up in coin sales, leading Veach to suspect that "someone is culling them out." That would illustrate that dealers and collectors are becoming increasingly sophisticated about the value of the coins.

The varieties are the product of different dies used in London to mint the coins. When plans for the coins were presented to George III, Veach said the royal mintmaster wanted to mint 52 coins from a pound of copper. The king said no; he wanted 60 coins to the pound.



Since dies for the coins had already been produced, the result was a smaller coin with ill-defined edges.

Still, the Virginia "coppers," as some call them, emerged as a much better-looking coin than those struck at small mints in the other colonies, such as Massachusetts or New Jersey. "They look like children designed them . . . [and] the mintage was very poor," Veach said.

Although 672,000 of the coins were known to have been shipped to Virginia, Veach said it is unclear how many have survived. Many are believed to have been melted in the 1789 copper panic, when many believed copper coins were more valuable for their metal than their stated value.

able to learn is now unknown in New England.³⁷ By far the most interesting part of the former statement, however, concerns Du Simitière's method of collecting coins. He found that the NE shillings were rare by searching through bags of coins in the treasurer's office, in quest of additional pieces for his collection. This passage, written in 1775, places Du Simitière second only to Rev. Andrew Eliot in launching a systematic effort to collect coins in America (see footnote 22).

Du Simitière continued his extract of Leake with "Maryland Money," in which he mentioned the Lord Baltimore coinage and "Plantation Money," about which he commented, "I never heard of any Such before I read this book."³⁸ Leake went on to consider the Rosa Americana pieces, both half-pennies and farthings. Du Simitière noted, "I have some of the half pennies in Copper," and then complained, "The author does not inform us whether they were ever made current, what their value was, & for which of the colonies they were. I have met with all of them in my travels in North America, but could never learn their use."³⁹ Du Simitière indeed met with Rosa Americana pieces in his travels, for he carefully illustrated different types, as seen in fig. 2. It is interesting to note the negligible impact upon Americans of William Wood's Rosa Americana coinage; although Du Simitière came on the scene only 30 years after the last of these pieces was struck, he could not find anyone who even remembered them in circulation. Much of this is due, of course, to the fact that these coins were never shipped to America in bulk, but rather arrived by chance.

Du Simitière concluded his extract of Leake with a mention of Virginia coinage. After an accurate description of the halfpenny (he made no mention of the heavier "Penny" or the silver shilling because these are patterns with which Americans of the Revolutionary era had no contact), he stated:

I have inquired after this coin for my collection and have been informed by a gentleman who had it from one of the Virginia delegates to the continental congress in July last [1775] that this copper coin had never been admitted as a currency in the Colony of Virginia.⁴⁰

This passage is accurate, for most of the Virginia halfpennies did not get into circulation until after the Revolutionary War.⁴¹ It is, however, interesting to note that Du Simitière's collecting was so active. It is no wonder that his quest for both numismatic information and for the coins themselves resulted in his gathering a respectable collection.

Du Simitière, Numismatic Author

Du Simitière did more than read numismatic literature, he aspired to write

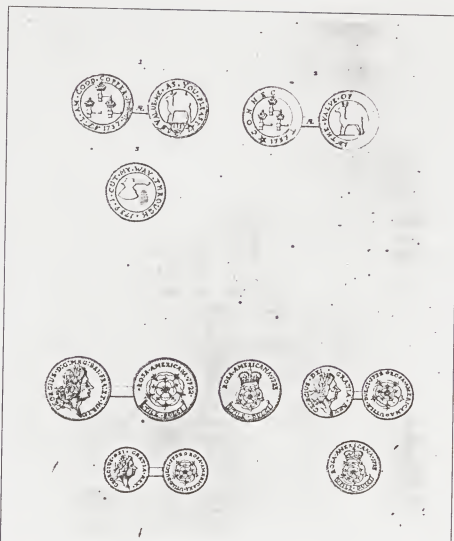


Figure 2

Du Simitière's Drawings of Hingley Coppers and Rosa Americana Coinage.

Top row: Hingley 1737 threepence, "VALUE ME AS YOU PLEASE"—3 Hammers—"I AM GOOD COPPER"; Hingley 1737 threepence, "THE VALUE OF THREE PENCE"—3 Hammers—"CONNECTICUT."

Second row: Hingley 1737 threepence, "VALUE ME AS YOU PLEASE"—Broad Axe—"CUT MY WAY THROUGH!" Du Simitière owned, at one time, seven of these extreme rarities, one of the greatest accumulations ever owned by a single numismatist. By contrast, both the Sylvester Sage Crosby Collection and the Garrett Collection contained "only" five specimens. Presumably, these three varieties were among the seven in Du Simitière's cabinet.

Third row: Rosa Americana coins, including the 1722 twopence with no period after "Rex"; the 1723 twopence (reverse only); the 1722 penny with "Utile Dulci" legend.

Fourth row: the 1722 twopence, with period after "Rex"; and the 1723 penny (reverse only). These underweight coins were never accepted by the American people. (Courtesy, Library Company of Philadelphia.)

it, and became one of America's earliest numismatic authors. That claim rests on "*Des Manières de Compteu...*" earlier mentioned, and also on a one-page essay entitled "*Origine de la Monnoye*" in his *Common Place Book* in the Library of Congress. He began ambitiously by tracing the history of money from "the earliest days of the Roman Republic," but the narrative abruptly ends at the close of one page.⁴² As with so many of his other projects, Du Simitière was unable to finish this one; it was probably terminated by his chronic shortages of time and money.

Du Simitière outlined an equally ambitious project at the close of his *Common Place Book*. He entitled it "Sketch of a Plan of a Work intended to illustrate the Revolution in North America by Medals, Seals, Coins, Devices, Statues, Monuments, Badges & C..." It consisted of two parts; the historical outline, which deals with medals and coins emitted during and immediately following the struggle, and, curiously, an appendix which covers the coins and medals issued for America *before* the Revolution. The "sketch" was written sometime in 1783 or 1784, for he mentioned a coin struck in 1783, and Du Simitière died the following year. Both are reproduced below, omitting mention of non-numismatic items:

Historical Outline

- 1st. the Device and mottos on the Various emissions of the Continental paper money.
- 2d. the medal intended for Gen. Washington on the British army evacuating Boston. [the "Washington Before Boston" medal, Betts 542]
- 6th. the medal presented to Gen. Gates on the Capture of the British army commanded by Gen. Burgoyne, at Saratoga, 1777. [Betts 557]
- 7th. the medal presented to Gen. Wayne on the Storming of Stony Point, 1779. [Betts 545]
- 8th. the medal presented to Col. Fleury on the same occasion.
- 9th. the medal presented to Col. St. evard (who died the Same year).
- 10th. the medal presented to Colonel Lee on the taking of Paulus-Hook. [Betts 575]
- 12th. the medals given to Gen. Morgan and Lieut. Col. Howard on the capture of Col. Tarleton. [Possibly Betts 596]
- 14th. the medal Sent from the Government of England to be distributed among the Indians to encourage them to go to war against the americans.
- 15th. the medal Struck by order of the State of Virginia to be given to the friendly Indians in opposition to the above-mentioned.
- 16th. the medal Struck at Paris by order of Dr. Franklin, to commemorate the Independence of the United States of America. [The "Libertas Americana" medal, Betts 615]
- 17th. the medal Struck in Holland to commemorate the treaty of Peace between the belligerent Powers.
- 17a. the medal Struck at Leuwarden in Friesland, on the occasion of that Province having been the first to declare in favor of the American Independence. [Betts 602]

- 17b. the medal Struck at Amsterdam, on the treaty between the United Provinces of the Netherlands and the United States of America. [Probably Betts 604 or 605]
- 18th. a Coin of the size of a Crown with devices and mottos taken from the continental paper money, Struck in London on Type-Metal, and dated 1776. [A Continental dollar, although it was not struck in London]
- 19th. Shillings and Six Pences, of Silver, Struck at annapolis by J. Chalmers, 1783.
- 20th. Coins privately Struck in Philadelphia with continental devices on them. [Probably the 1783 Nova Constellatio patterns in silver. Although three varieties of Nova Constellatio coppers are dated 1783, they were probably struck in 1785 by George Wyon in Birmingham, England (see footnote 78)].

Appendix

- the Silver plate given by Charles II to the Indian Queen of Pamunkee Virga. [This piece is discussed in detail later]
- 15th. the brass coins Struck by Mr. Wood for the American colonies, 1722. 1723. [Wood's Hibernia coinage]
 - 16th. the Copper Coins with a Deer, Supposed to have been Struck in Connecticut 1737. [Higley coppers]
 - 17th. the Copper Coin struck at the Tower of London for Virginia 1774 [The Virginia halfpenny, dated 1773, but not actually delivered to the treasurer of Virginia until 1774]
 - 18th. the Medals occasionally given by the Crown of England to the Indians. One Struck by a Society of People, Chiefly Quakers, in Philadelphia to be given to the Indians during the late French War. [Probably the medal produced by the "Friendly Association for Preserving Peace with the Indians by Pacific Measures," a medal struck by Joseph Richardson, Sr., (Betts 401), discussed in footnote 19]
 - 19th. the Medal of William Penn, founder of Pennsylvania, Struck in England by his descendants.
 - 20th. Spanish Silver coins of Phillip II found in a field near Reading [.] NB the New England coins Struck at Boston [in] 1652 as likewise Lord Baltimore's coin from Maryland will only be noticed in their respective places, as they are already delineated in Martin Folkes's *Tables of English Silver and Gold Coins* pag. 91.⁴³

After taking into consideration the lack of published references and the non-existence of networks of other collectors, Du Simitière's list is surprisingly complete. The endorsement for the entire plan, which Du Simitière wrote on the overside of his list, tells at once of his ambitions and their failure: "Plans of a Work of illustrating the Revolution of America by Devices, Medals, Coins & C. that have been published on the occasion of the Revolution both in America and in Europe by P.E. Du Simitière."⁴⁴ This ambitious plan, which would have been a significant contribution to the knowledge of early American coinage nearly a century before Crosby, was left in this outline form at Du Simitière's death.

Some of the important information Du Simitière saved was pictorial rather than written. The meticulous drawings of New England, Massachusetts, and Rosa Americana coinage, among others, provide valuable early documentation for these pieces (see figs. 1 and 2). Perhaps the most interesting of these drawings are three views of the celebrated "Higley Coppers." (See fig. 2). Du Simitière's draftsmanship was a bit confused by modern standards, for he transposed the obverses and the reverses, but his renderings were technically very accurate. He illustrated both an early variety of the Higley copper (the 1737 "VALUE ME AS YOU PLEASE"—3 Hammers—"I AM GOOD COPPER") and the last variety (the 1739 "VALUE ME AS YOU PLEASE"—Broad Axe—"CUT MY WAY THROUGH"). It is fascinating to note that the Higley coppers were elusive even in the 1770s, for the best specimen of the 1737 "THE VALUE OF THREE PENCE"—3 Hammers—"CONNECTICVT" piece he could find was badly worn on the right side of both the obverse and the reverse. Thus Du Simitière's drawings provide mute, but important evidence of the rarity of Higley tokens in better grades, for even though the competition from other collectors was miniscule, Du Simitière could not find a nice specimen.

Du Simitière particularly enjoyed preserving reports of coin hoard discoveries. He recorded some of these stories so excitedly he failed to note all of the facts, or even complete his sentences. One such cryptic passage reads, "I have heard in [October?] 1765 of some silver coins being discovered in the ground about 60 miles [?] country."⁴⁹ The Swiss was usually much more meticulous in his chronicles. For instance, in his annotations of an unnamed book on the history of Jamaica, Du Simitière took pains to accurately describe the hoards he had learned of on that island:

In June 1761 Mr. Williams of Goshen St. Ann Parish, informed me that, a Mr. King found in Spanish Town about 20 years ago, a jarr full of Copper Coins...In the year 1762 another jarr full of Copper money was dug up on the plantation of Thomas Bontein Esq...In February 1774 being at Leogamme in the Island of Hispaniola, Monsr. Sigonneau Planter presented me with three Spanish copper coins of which a large earthen potful had been found a few years before in one of the cane pieces of his plantation...⁵⁰

These reports were mere hearsay and thus not verifiable. But the Swiss did not mean to judge the merits of such stories. As a museum proprietor, he felt his role was to save these bits of data; he was content to let others squabble over their veracity. In any case, however, it was clear that Du Simitière took his curatorial duties very seriously.

Du Simitière, of course, did more than gather information for his museum,

he collected the actual coins as well. In fact, he actively solicited specimens from his far-flung correspondents. Writing to an acquaintance in Virginia, Du Simitière asked for donations of artifacts, "particularly ancient weapons, coins, medals & c. for all these I have proper places allotted in my repository and Some already collected from various parts of the continent."⁵¹ This confirms that Du Simitière aimed to collect coins systematically and widely throughout the British provinces before the Revolution. Du Simitière was fortunate to be among the earliest coin collectors in America, so he had little competition for his prizes. On the other hand, hard money was never plentiful in the provinces, and the crisis of the Revolution exacerbated an already dismal monetary situation. In 1779, in a letter to Governor George Clinton of New York, Du Simitière sounded a lament that coin collectors have echoed ever since: "Coins and medals antient & modern I have a collection of but now a days there become Scarce, notwithstanding I meet with a few new and then."⁵²

Indeed Du Simitière did meet with a "few new and then." A 1779 inventory of his numismatic collection revealed 135 separate coins and medals of many nations. Among them were nine New England coins, 13 Rosa Americana pieces, five Virginia coins, and a whopping seven "deer money" pieces [Higley coppers]. Among the coins of the world were three Russian and five Chinese pieces.⁵³ A visitor to the Swiss's museum would not see a comprehensive overview of either American or world coinage, but he might see a nice introduction to coinage the world over. Considering the premium on hard money during the Revolution, this itself was an amazing achievement, particularly so because it had been fewer than 10 years before that Du Simitière had been forced to surrender 135 valuable silver coins and medals to the estate of John Smith.

Paper Money

Du Simitière did not limit his museum's numismatic collection to coins and medals; he was, in fact, one of America's first collectors of paper money. In a 1783 letter to a patron, Governor George Clinton of New York, Du Simitière stated:

I have a collection of paper money not only of the colonies but also and particularly of the paper currency emitted [by] Congress and by the different States during the war, but it is imperfect for want of the bills of the State of New York. May I request that you would favour me with some Specimens of its various denominations[?]⁵⁴

Du Simitière noted that his collection included the rare, pre-Revolutionary

Another part of Du Simitière's "Washington Before Boston" medal proposal, the eye of Providence in a triangle with glory, was the first part of Du Simitière's design to be accepted as a final element of the Great Seal. A modified version (eye and glory only, no triangle) made a brief appearance from 1783 to 1785 on the Nova Constellatio coppers, the Immune Columbia pieces, and certain Vermont coppers. However, it has had a long and honorable history on the reverse of every one-dollar bill printed since 1928.

The second of Du Simitière's adopted suggestions for the Great Seal, the date in Roman numerals, has also graced the reverse of Federal Reserve Note "ones." In addition, Roman numerals had a brief but glorious history in United States coinage on the MCMVII (1907) Saint-Gaudens high relief double eagle. Again, as of this writing, Roman numerals are being revived on the American eagle gold bullion coins.

Du Simitière's third accepted element for the Great Seal, the form of a shield, has proved nearly as influential upon our nation's coinage as the allegorical figure of Liberty. This traditional heraldic device had a long history on imperial coinage made for America (for example, on the Virginia halfpennies), so one can hardly claim that subsequent coin designers who used shields took inspiration solely from Du Simitière's design. It is fair to say, however, that Du Simitière's idea was the inspiration for the shield on the Great Seal, and several later designers who used shields copied theirs directly from the Great Seal. Among the copies were the Immunis Columbia Shield Reverses, the New Jersey coppers, Indian Head cents after 1859, two-cent pieces, silver three-cent pieces, Shield nickels, Draped Bust and Capped Bust coins, all Liberty Seated coins, Barber halves, most quarter and half eagles, many eagles and double eagles, and assorted territorial gold coins. The shield even made an appearance on the reverse of the Confederate half dollar and several issues from the Philippines. It survives on present-day coinage on the reverse of the Kennedy half dollar.

The fourth element of Du Simitière's design that survived as part of the final form of the Great Seal has exerted truly enormous influence over subsequent designs in American numismatics. Although the motto "E Pluribus Unum" was not Du Simitière's invention, he was the first to suggest it as a motto for America.⁷⁶ When it found a place on the Great Seal as finally adopted, it was destined to be used numismatically. Its first appearance came on the 1786 Immunis Columbia piece with Eagle Reverse, and on New Jersey coppers of 1786, 1787, and 1788. In the following year, it made an appearance, as "Unum E Pluribus," on the celebrated Brasher doubloon, and the Excelsior coppers of New York. It is found again on the reverse of the Kentucky tokens attributed to 1792-1794. "E Pluribus Unum" first made an ap-

pearance on the federal coinage on the Capped Bust to Right Heraldic Eagle 1795 half eagle. Thus began a long list of coins carrying the phrase; today every circulating coin and the one-dollar bill bear Du Simitière's suggested motto.

Du Simitière's Indirect Influence on Devices and Mottos

Besides Du Simitière's direct legacies for the future appearance of both coinage and paper money, he may have had crucial indirect influences as well. Charles Thomson, a teacher, businessman, politician, and secretary of Congress, in June of 1782 synthesized the recommendations of all three committees formed to suggest designs for the Great Seal, to which he added a few elements of his own. The third committee had decided that an eagle should be one of the devices. Thomson felt that was a good idea, but expanded the concept into a heraldic eagle superimposed on a shield. The eagle-with-a-shield was a device of long standing in European heraldry—the Imperial Arms of Russia, for example, featured a two-headed eagle with a shield on its breast—so it is doubtful that this was solely Thomson's idea. He may have found his inspiration in a book of emblems written by Joachim Camerarius in 1597 that was in the library of Benjamin Franklin.⁷⁷ Alternatively, he may have received his idea from his friend, Pierre Eugène Du Simitière.

Thomson knew Du Simitière from the latter's service to several Congressional committees, and both were members of the American Philosophical Society. It seems likely that Thomson shared Du Simitière's interest in coins.⁷⁸ In any event, we know that Du Simitière owned several coins from nations that used the eagle-and-shield device on their coinage, specifically Russia, Spain, and the Holy Roman Empire. In his *Memoranda Book*, Du Simitière listed the following coins with eagle motifs in his collection:

- a small [copper piece] II gute pfer land muntz 1712.
reverse a crowned eagle.
- a [small copper piece] III heller 1760. reverse, a
coat of arms in an imperial eagle crowned.
- a 1/8 of a Rixdaller of Leopole, his bust, &
reverse the imperial a spread eagle, 1760.
- a copper coin of Russia, and imperial eagle, reverse
an Russian legend, date 1735.
- ¼ Stuber, 1752. round dortmande Scheide Muntz.
reverse an eagle.⁷⁹

It is abundantly clear that Thomson knew Du Simitière, that Thomson had at least some interest in coins, and that Du Simitière's coin collection offered at least five examples of the use of eagles on coinage. Although it cannot be

Numismatic Society, 1959). Du Simitière learned of the Good Samaritan Shilling from an illustration on p. 91 of the Folkes book (see note 36 above).

38 Ibid. Du Simitière here referred to the American Plantations Token which featured James II of England on the reverse. These token farthings, struck in tin, were supposed to pass at the ratio of 24 to the Spanish Real.

39 Ibid.

40 Ibid.

41 While the Half Pennies may not have been officially "admitted," they were not, as the passage implies, rejected. The standard source for information on the Virginia coinage is Eric P. Newman, *Coinage for Colonial Virginia* (New York: American Numismatic Society, 1956). Newman asserts many of the Virginia pieces are found well worn, and others have been excavated, along with other contemporary coins, from archaeological digs. Du Simitière was not far wrong, however, for many were hoarded, including a keg of thousands of coins once belonging to Col. Mendes Cohen. For the best recent offering of these pieces, see Bowers and Ruddy's *The Garrett Collection Sales*, Sale 3, Lots 1281-1294. Du Simitière's source may have been Thomas Jefferson, for in his writings on the subject of coinage in Virginia, he erroneously stated "In Virginia...we have never yet been able to introduce a copper coin at all." Thomas Jefferson, "Notes on the Establishment of a Money Unit, and of a Coinage for the United States" (1784) in Phillip S. Foner, ed. *Basic Writings of Thomas Jefferson* (New York: Wiley Book Company, 1944), p. 202. Jefferson and Du Simitière were acquaintances by 1775.

42 Du Simitière, "Monnoye, Money, Coins, Origine de la Monnoye." *Common Place Book*, 1775-1784, Library of Congress. The earliest known book published in America on numismatics-related topics was A Modest Inquiry into the Nature and Necessity of a Paper-Currency, written and published by Benjamin Franklin in 1729. Only three copies are known to exist; one is at the Library Company of Philadelphia.

43 Sifton, "Pierre Eugène Du Simitière," pp. 415-17.

44 Ibid., p. 417.

45 See Joel J. Orosz, "Pierre Eugène Du Simitière: Museum Pioneer in America." *Museum Studies Journal I* (Spring, 1985), pp. 11-14.

46 Ibid., p. 10. (The Congressman's name in this source is erroneously given as "William" Smith. His first name was, in fact, "Richard," and he was the brother of Du Simitière's late Patron, John Smith. See "John Smith" in *The National Cyclopaedia of American Biography*, Vol. 13, p. 582.)

47 Ibid., p. 14. For an excellent account of the articles contained within the American Museum, see "Pierre Eugène Du Simitière: His American Museum 200 Years After" Catalogue of an exhibition at the Library Company of Philadelphia, July-October, 1985.

48 Du Simitière, "Observations Sur Les Sauvages," *Du Simitière Papers*, Vol. III, Item 1f, Library Company of Philadelphia.

49 Du Simitière, *Scraps*, No. 92, Historical Society of Pennsylvania.

50 Du Simitière, "Spanish Antiquities: Coins," *Du Simitière Papers*: Vol. VI, 968.F.17a, Library Company of Philadelphia.

51 Du Simitière to Hon. William Fleming, Esq., September 26, 1779. Du Simitière, *Letterbook*, Peter Force Papers, Series 8D, Library of Congress.

52 Du Simitière to George Clinton, December 24, 1779. *Stauffer Collection*, Vol. 30, p. 2340, Historical Society of Pennsylvania.

53 Du Simitière, *Memoranda Book*, 1774-1783, Library of Congress. Also quoted, in its entirety, in Sifton, "Pierre Eugène Du Simitière," pp. 407-414.

54 Du Simitière to George Clinton, June 6, 1783. Du Simitière *Letterbook*, Peter Force Papers, Series 8D, Library of Congress.

55 Du Simitière to John Sullivan, July 2, 1783, Ibid.

56 See, for example, New Netherlands Co., Inc.'s 65th *Unrestricted Public Auction Sale* (The Great Affleck-Ball Collection of Continental and Colonial Currency) December 3-4, 1975. Lots 312-29 are New Hampshire Revolutionary-Era Notes, while Lots 421-48 are emissions from the same period in New York.

57 John Christopher Kunze (1744-1807) was born in Saxony, and came to Philadelphia in 1770 to be a pastor in that city's Lutheran church. In 1784 he moved to New York to be pastor of Christ Church on Frankfort Street, a post he held until his death. According to his biographer, Kunze was a brilliant scholar, "a student also of medicine, astronomy, and numismatics." See George Harvey Gentzmer, "John Christopher Kunze" in Dumas Malone, ed. *Dictionary of American Biography*, Vol. V (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1932), pp. 512-13.

58 According to an early chronicler of the New-York Historical Society, "An extensive and valuable cabinet of coins and medals was presented to the Society, July 14, 1818, by the heirs of Dr. John C. Kunze...This collection was stolen from the Society a few years after its reception, nothing remaining but the cabinet which held the coins and medals." See Robert Hendre Kelby, *The New York Historical Society, 1804-1904* (New York: New-York Historical Society, 1905) p. 33.

59 Du Simitière, *Common Place Book*, Library of Congress: quoted in William John Potts, "Du Simitière, Artist, Antiquary, and Naturalist, Projector of the First American Museum, With Some Extracts from His Notebook," *Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography* 13 (October 1889), p. 360. "The Queen of Pamunkey" piece is listed as No. 45 in C. Willys Betts' *American Colonial History Illustrated by Contemporary Medals* (New York: Scott Stamp and Coin Co., Ltd., 1894), p. 26. Betts incorrectly rendered it as "Pamunky!" The piece is actually not a struck medal, but rather a hand-worked frontlet made to fasten to the front of a hat or coat. This is the conclusion of Harold E. Gillingham, in his article "Early American Indian Medals," *Antiques* 6 (December 1924), p. 312. Gillingham supported his position by stating there are five loops on the reverse of the medal, and that when a specimen was presented to the Virginia Historical Society, it was fastened to a battered cloth cap. The piece is illustrated by Gillingham. It is an oval, 3 3/4 inches by 4 1/4 inches, with the arms of England engraved in the center, encircled in an upper oval, and an oblong beneath bears the legend "The Queen of Pamunkey!" (See Gillingham, *Early American Indian Medals*, p. 312). Betts also noted a "King of Pamunkey" Medal (No. 46) and a "Ye King of Patomack" Medal (No. 47). The author is grateful to Michael Hodder of Bowers and Merena Galleries for research help on this piece. It is illustrated as fig. 4.

60 Du Simitière, *Memoranda Book*, 1774-1783, Library of Congress; quoted in Potts, "Du Simitière," p. 367.

61 See Betts, *Contemporary Medals*, p. 26 (Note 2).

62 See Gillingham, *Early American Indian Medals*, p. 312.

63 This piece was absent from both Bowers and Ruddy's *Garrett Collection Sales* (1979-1981), and from Bowers and Merena's *David W. Dreyfus Sale* in 1986. Betts, writing in 1894, noted an example was in the collection of Dr. M.P. Scott of Baltimore. Gillingham in his *Early American Indian Medals*, p. 312, noted a specimen had been given to the Virginia Historical Society. This is incorrect, for as of this writing, the "medal" is the property of the Virginia Association of Antiquities, in Richmond. It is unclear if the Scott piece and the Virginia Association of Antiquities specimen are in fact the same frontlet. Gillingham also notes an odd misconception whereby

THE EAGLE THAT IS FORGOTTEN

Pierre Eugène Du Simitière, Founding Father of American Numismatics

(1737-1784) BY DR. JOEL J. OROSZ

Foreword By Eric P. Newman

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The Collection of Colonel Mendes I. Cohen

Sold in 1875, the Mendes I. Cohen Collection was remarkable in its scope and depth.

by Arthur Cawmer



The source of most of today's existing Virginia halfpennies was a keg of them that came into Colonel Cohen's possession and remained with his heirs until 1929, when the final 2,200 pieces of the hoard were sold.

ANA MUSEUM

THE CITY OF Baltimore has had its share of famous numismatists and fabulous coin collections. Several of these collections are well known among numismatists and have had a dramatic effect on the evolution of the hobby. Additionally, the auction catalogs of these collections provide a permanent reminder of numismatists and the collections they formed. Sometimes these records of the past provide journeys into the side roads of numismatics. The catalog of the Colonel Mendes I. Cohen auction provided such a trip for me.

Among coin collectors, Colonel Mendes I. Cohen is perhaps best remembered for providing the numismatic community with the vast majority of Virginia halfpennies in today's collections. A keg of these coins discovered in Richmond before the Civil War came into Cohen's possession and remained with his heirs until 1929, when the final 2,200 pieces of the hoard were sold.

Mendes I. Cohen was born in Virginia in 1796, and upon the death of his father when Mendes was 7 years old, the family moved to Baltimore, Maryland. He received his early education there until the age of 16, when he quit school to join the Army. Mendes served in the Army "for two years during the war of 1812, was engaged in the historic defense of Fort McHenry and emerged from the service with the rank of colonel," reports Lynn Poole. "Instead of returning to his studies, he joined his brothers in the J.I. Cohen banking house. As manager of the New York branch, he acquitted himself successfully, fitted easily into the society of his day and spent his vacations traveling widely in England and on the Continent."

In 1829 Cohen retired from business and sailed to Europe, beginning six years of travel and adventure. During this period he also traveled up

"OF THE RARITY and beauty of many of the American pieces it is needless to speak, as the catalog itself (the work of Mr. Cogan) shows faithfully enough."

the Nile River, where he is said to have been the first to fly the U.S. flag. The Cohen expedition also was the first U.S. party to enter the Nile Valley to search for relics from the time of the pharaohs. Although no great rarities were found, a total of 689 items was collected and cataloged. In 1884 these pieces were donated to The Johns Hopkins University.

After returning to the United States, Cohen again served in the Army during the war with Mexico in the 1840s. Later, he served two terms in the Maryland legislature and dominated civic affairs. Cohen died in 1869 at the age of 73.

The Cohen Collection is not as famous as, nor did it have the impact of the collections assembled by Baltimore numismatists T. Harrison Garrett and his son John Work Garrett, Louis E. Eliasberg and Waldo C. Newcomer. However, it compares favorably in depth and scope. Emmanuel Joseph Attinelli, in his book on early auctions, made the following remarks regarding the Cohen Collection:

What the Stenz was to German coins, this collection is to American mint issues in particular, few of which are missing. Colonial pieces were also well represented, as were also the British series; several of the rarest of which were to be found in this celebrated collection. Of the rarity and beauty of many of the American pieces it is needless to speak, as the catalog itself (the work of Mr. Cogan) shows faithfully enough. Fine and rich though the collection was, its sale was not a success, which could only be attributed to the unfortunate enforced absence, through sickness, of Mr. Edward Cogan, under whose supervision the sale was to have taken place; that absence was felt by all, and probably by no one more than Mr. Cohen.

Total proceeds from the sale amounted to \$9,744.03. A review of the contents of the sale reveals the truth of Attinelli's comments.

The auction catalog itself was printed in two versions—one on regular paper and the other on thick paper. John Weston Adams, in comments included in a reprint of Attinelli's work, rates the catalog as R-5, 31-75 copies in existence. The catalog was issued with four photographic plates, which were offered by Cogan at 60 cents each by advance order prior to the sale. Adams rates the plated catalog as R-7, 4 to 12 copies in existence.

The sale commenced at 3 p.m. on Monday, October 25, 1875, with 33 lots of foreign coppers. This was followed by 69 lots of ancient Greek and Roman gold, silver and copper coins. The first U.S. coins sold were gold eagles—Lots 103 to 112—from 1795 (described as "perfect Uncirculated") to 1804 (described as "Obverse scratched. Only fair."). Also included in this section was a "1798 over 7" eagle.



One of only two known 1825/4 overdate half eagles, this specimen later was owned by two famous collectors, John H. Clapp and Louis Eliasberg.



The Cohen specimen of the 1804 dollar was sold as Lot 535 for \$325 to Henry S. Adams and later to Lorin G. Parmelee, both of Boston.

Three Memorable Baltimore Collections

The Garrett Collection, formed primarily between 1865 and 1940 by T. Harrison Garrett and his son, John Work Garrett, was donated to The Johns Hopkins University in 1942, in whose custody it remained until it was sold. The Garrett Collection created a tidal wave of interest and excitement in the numismatic community when the United States and colonial portions were sold by Bowers and Ruddy Galleries in 1979-81. Many price records were established, and the total hammer price for the four sales amounted to more than \$25 million.

The Eliasberg Collection, formed by Louis E. Eliasberg Sr., was developed primarily between 1933 and 1950. This collection, of which the copper and silver sections are still intact, was heralded as the only complete date and mint collection of U.S. coins ever developed. It was displayed from April 21 to December 31, 1976, at the United States Mint in Philadelphia as a feature of the U.S. bicentennial celebration. The gold portion, sold by Bowers and Ruddy Galleries in October 1982, was the only complete date and mint collection of U.S. gold coins ever assembled. Total proceeds from the sale amounted to \$12,380,000.

The catalogs of these two sales, especially the hardbound versions, have become important additions to modern numismatic libraries. The wealth of information they contain makes these books extremely valuable references and provides hours of enjoyment for the numismatic bibliophile.

A third famous Baltimore collection was that of Waldo C. Newcomer. According to Q. David Bowers, "The Newcomer Collection had just about everything . . . silver dollars of 1804 and 1870-S, an 1894-S dime, an 1876-CC twenty-cent piece, an 1827 quarter, an 1838-O half dollar, trade dollars of 1884 and 1885, the only known 1870-S three-dollar gold piece and thousands of other coins." An interesting sidelight to the Newcomer Collection was that it was stolen during installation of a burglar alarm system in 1913. The electricians later were arrested for the theft, and most of the coins were recovered from safe-deposit boxes in New York City. In 1930 the Newcomer Collection was consigned for \$250,000 to dealer B. Max Mehl, who sold its contents privately over a period of several years. Some of the Newcomer pieces were purchased from Mehl by John Work Garrett in 1931 and thus remained in the City of Baltimore for an additional period of time.



Lot 1314 was an 1861 Philadelphia Mint \$20 with Paquet reverse; however, it was listed as a pattern piece. The whereabouts of the Cohen piece is not known. Shown here is the other known specimen, which was auctioned in Part III of the Norweb Collection Sale conducted by Bowers and Merena in 1988.

Lots 113 through 180 were half eagles from 1795 to 1859. One of the highlights of this section was Lot 138, an 1815 half eagle described as "Very fine impression. Exceedingly rare, only 5 known altogether." This piece is cited in the Eliasberg Sale as possibly being the Carter specimen sold by Stack's in 1984. The other great rarity in this section was Lot 145, an 1825/4 overdate half eagle described in *Walter Breen's Complete Encyclopedia of U.S. and Colonial Coins* (#6484) as one of two known. This coin appeared in the Eliasberg Sale as Lot 381.

Lots 181-227 were quarter eagles dated from 1796 to 1859. Lot 182, the star of this section, was a 1796 "with stars" described as a proof. Lots 228-33 were \$3 gold coins dated 1854 to 1859, all of which were cataloged as uncirculated or proof specimens. Lot 234 was listed as an 1849 \$3 gold coin in uncirculated condition and very scarce. As \$3 pieces were not authorized until 1853 or minted until 1854, this entry must have been a typographical error. Lots 235-62 were gold dollars dating from 1850 through 1875, all in uncirculated or proof condition.

Lots 268 through 377 were French coins of Louis VI through Napoleon III. Again, their overall condition was superb, with most coins being described as either Uncirculated or Proof specimens.

Lot 378 began what can be described only as a pattern collector's dream

LOT 378 BEGAN what can be described only as a pattern collector's dream come true. . . . Lot 379 was a silver 1792 dime with date removed, known to be unique . . .

come true. Rather than detail what was described in the catalog as the "largest collection of pattern pieces ever offered at auction," a few examples will suffice. Lot 379 was a silver 1792 dime with the date removed, known to be unique, according to the Norweb reference. Lots 413-20 comprised a set of 1838 pattern half dollars, all in proof condition. Lot 486 was described as an "1858 set of pattern cents. 12 varieties. Proofs." The first night of the sale concluded with an 1858 "small eagle" pattern cent.

The second night of the sale started with a group of miscellaneous silver and copper coins, Lots 493 through 516. Lot 517 was the first specimen from Cohen's collection of silver dollars. A 1794 dollar was described as "a remarkably fine impression of this rare date." Silver dollars continued through Lot 577, with most being either uncirculated or proof pieces. One notable exception was Lot 535, an 1804 silver dollar that was "guaranteed to be original." This coin was sold to Henry S. Adams of Boston for \$325. (For more information about this piece, I suggest consulting *The Fantastic 1804 Dollar* by Eric P. Newman and Kenneth E. Bressett.) The Cohen specimen exhibits the most wear of any Class I 1804 dollar and was, according to records, "received in 1865 over the counter by Edward Cohen, who was keeping an Exchange office in Richmond."

Lots 578-670 consisted of Cohen's collection of half dollars dating from 1794 to 1875. Again, the quality of the coins was excellent, with most lots being either uncirculated or proof. Next came quarter dollars. Lots 671-731 represented dates from 1796 ("one of the finest impressions ever offered at auction") to 1875 (in Uncirculated condition). Lots 732 through 805 were 1796-1875 dimes. They were followed by half dimes from 1794 through 1869, featured in Lots 806-59. Lot 860 was a "perfect set of three cent pieces, from 1851, two varieties, to 1873. A very beautiful set, and very desirable." Lots 861, 862 and 863 were trimes dated 1854, 1855 and 1856, each in proof condition.

Lots 864-82 were U.S. proof sets from 1857-75, each containing from six to eleven pieces, as issued. The latter was an 1873 and included examples of the Liberty Seated and Trade dollars. (A half page of the catalog was devoted to brief descriptions of these proof sets. If offered in a sale today, these items would be considered highly important and would surely be individually illustrated.)

Cohen's collection of American medals was cataloged as Lots 883-986. The quality and content of the medals section were superb. Fourteen

continued on page 1663



This unique 1792 Washington "eagle with stars" gold piece was sold for \$500 to Lorin G. Parmelee. The catalog of the Parmelee Sale states that this specimen probably was given to Washington and that it likely was used as a pocket piece.

Cohen Collection

continued from page 1583

lots of foreign medals, all in silver, and eight lots of English medals concluded the second night's offerings.

The third evening, Wednesday, October 27, opened with a selection of English copper coins, Lots 1009-69, followed by English gold and silver coins dating from 873 through the reign of William III (1689-1702).

Lot 1279 began the "continuation and conclusion of the largest collection of pattern pieces ever offered at auction." Lots 1279, 1280 and 1281 were varieties of 1859 \$20 pieces struck in copper. Next came 19 lots of 1859 pattern half dollars in silver and copper! (By comparison, the Garrett Collection contained only

two examples.)

Lot 1314, an 1861 \$20 gold piece, was described in this manner:

The reverse of this piece, although similar in design to that of the regular issue, is larger in every respect and was withdrawn in consequence of the extreme narrow milling, which would cause much loss by abrasion, and all but two were remelted—this one and one in the possession of Mr. W. Jenks of Philadelphia. Extremely Rare.

The famous Paquet reverse is listed as a pattern! (More information about this piece can be found in William Gibbs' article in the November 22, 1989, issue of *Coin World* and in comments by John J. Ford Jr. in the auction catalog for Part III of the Norweb Sale.)

The list of Cohen's patterns goes on. "Proof," "rare" and "very rare" were used throughout their descriptions. Cohen's collection of patterns concluded with Lot 1446—a set of six 1873 Trade dollars, all beautiful proof specimens.

Lots 1447-66 were Assay medals from 1860-75. Ten lots of unusual items were offered next, including Lot 1467, described as a "Block of Ivory with the copy of the obverse of the supposed unique Half Dollar of 1838, made by the Saxon Machine, U.S. Mint."

Washington pieces and medals, Lots 1477-1536, concluded the third session. Lot 1488 appears to be the same 1792 "Eagle with Stars" token pictured on page 53 of the 43rd edition of *A Guide Book of United States Coins*. The unique piece struck in gold

C.E. Bullowa

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#175

was sold for \$500 to Lorin G. Parmelee. (Later, the catalog of the Parmelee Sale stated "It is probable that Washington had this piece given him, and the slight wear it shows, would indicate its use as a pocket piece.")

Bidding at the fourth session opened with Lots 1537-1706, "extra British and other coppers," a description that was quite deceptive, as a majority of the lots were silver and gold pieces. Two examples give the flavor of the pieces in this section: Lot 1699 was a "complete set of 9 pattern florins . . . These are so rare that their existence is known to but few collectors"; Lot 1701 was a "Gold Five Sovereign Piece. By Wyon," the famous "Una and the Lion" £5 piece. Foreign gold and silver coins comprised Lots 1707-1905.

These were followed by items of

interest to Early American copper enthusiasts. Lots 1906-84 were cents, and Lots 1985-2034 were half cents. Although these pieces were in a high state of preservation, they did not comprise a complete set by die variety. Cohen apparently was content to collect a year set with a few additional major varieties included. The 1793 cents were called "Ring" rather than "Chain" cents, a term that carries a positive connotation of liberty and cooperation and that is, in my opinion, preferable to the terminology used today.

The fifth and final session began with California gold, Lots 2035-51. The first of these lots was a \$10 Baldwin and Company "horseman" type, and Lot 2036 was a Norris, Gregg & Norris half eagle dated 1849. The remaining lots in this

section were gold dollars and fractional pieces.

The next nine lots comprised Carolina gold—\$5, \$2½ and \$1 pieces minted by the Bechtlers. Georgia gold was represented by Lot 2061, a \$5 piece, and Lot 2062, a \$2½ piece, again struck by the Bechtlers. Lots 2063 and 2064 were listed as \$5 and \$2.50 Pikes Peak gold, and Lots 2065 and 2066 as Mormon gold in \$5 and \$2.50 denominations.

Another series of foreign gold, silver and copper continued the offerings through Lot 2212. Among the countries represented in this section were Belgium, Brazil, Japan, Mexico, Russia and Turkey.

U.S. colonial pieces began with a "NE" shilling, Lot 2213, described as "Original but battered, as usual. Very fair for the piece. Very rare." This

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was followed by 27 additional lots of Massachusetts coinage, most of which were of the Pine and Oak Tree types.

Lord Baltimore shilling, sixpence and groat pieces were presented next, followed by two Idler copies of the Lord Baltimore penny (one of which was in nickel). Next came one of my personal favorites, a Baltimore Town piece described by Cogan as "Very fine for the period. Not Uncirculated but very rare."

Lot 2247 was a Carolina Elephant token of the "Proprietors" variety, supposedly "one of the finest that has been offered for years." After this came a London Elephant token in poor condition. Lots 2251-55 were Rosa Americana pieces. Two Higley coppers came next—Lot 2256 was the "value me as you please, three hammers" variety and Lot 2257 was

the "value me as you please, I cut my way through" variety. In this area, Cohen's collection was well-rounded, representing the major varieties of state coinage and privately issued tokens of the colonial era.

The next three lots were solid rosewood cabinets, all listed as being in perfect condition and very expensively made. Cohen apparently took great pride in his collection; today's numismatists owe him a debt of thanks for the care with which he treated it.

Finally, Cohen's personal library was sold as Lots 2333 through 2399. In an era when books about numismatics were scarce, his library must certainly have been that of a true numismatist. Titles included *The Coinage of the British Empire* by Henry Noel Humphries, *An Historical Account of*

American Coinage by John H. Hickcox, *The Washington National Medals* by J.R. Snowden, *Manual of Gold and Silver Coins of All Nations* by Eckfeldt and Duboise, *The American Numismatic Manual Illustrated* by M.W. Dickeson, and the contemporary *Early Coins of America* by Sylvester S. Crosby.

A total of 235 auction sale catalogs also were included in Cohen's library. Cogan's first sale, the 1859 J.N.T. Levick Sale (priced), the 1863 G.F. Seavey Sale (priced), the 1864 J.F. McCoy Sale (priced and named, bound in half morocco), the 1867 Mickley Sale (priced and named), the 1869 MacKenzie Sale (illustrated, priced and named, bound in half morocco) were among the offerings. A number of catalogs for the years 1859 through 1875 also were sold.



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A highlight of the half eagle section in the Cohen Sale was an 1815 piece, described as "Very fine impression. Exceedingly rare, only 5 known altogether."

Lot 2399 was a particularly interesting piece of numismatic literature. It was described as a "Satirical Catalogue of 16 Lots of Coins, The property of Gointoem Strong, Esq. Very few issued and really very rare." Early numismatists were not without a sense of humor. Lot 2400, the final lot of the Colonel Mendes I. Cohen Sale, was described as "Magnifying

glass, with handle."

Considering that major rarities in today's market, such as the 1894-S dime, 1913 Liberty Head nickel and the MCMVII Extremely High Relief Saint-Gaudens double eagle, were not even contemplated at the time, the Cohen Collection is even more impressive.

No doubt Colonel Cohen's banking connections aided in the formation of his collection. His contacts at the Mint, if they existed, either directly or indirectly could have helped him obtain pattern pieces as well as other rare and desirable items. If correspondence in these areas exists, it would make fascinating reading. Because of his varied interests and activities, Cohen would have been a wonderful person to spend hours with in lively discussion. I am glad to

have met him through the catalog of his collection.

I also owe a debt of gratitude to Alexander Parker Wylie and Frank Katen for having the sense of history to save this catalog and pass it on to others. (I obtained my copy of the Cohen Sale catalog—one of the best buys I ever made—for \$5 from a Katen Bargain List. A conversation with Frank and Laurese Katen revealed that it was probably from the Wylie hoard.) Colonel Cohen also had a wonderful sense of history, and we are all indebted to him for his involvement in and his advancement of numismatics.

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A native of Maryland, Artbur Cawmmer holds a bachelor's degree in criminology from the University of Maryland and is employed as director of correctional classification by the Maryland Division of Correction. His numismatic interests are varied, with emphasis on numismatic literature and Hard Times tokens. Cawmmer's articles have appeared in RARE COIN REVIEW, COIN WORLD and THE REPOSITORY. His last article for THE NUMISMATIST, "Availability and Condition of Hard Times Tokens," appeared in May 1990.



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06 August 1990

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY
6450 Cecil Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63105

Dear Eric:

As I stated not long ago in an earlier letter of mine, I don't like to make retractions or to reverse myself on the position of a variety (or set) that I've looked at "long and hard" as a "new variety" example.

Well, I'm doing so once again, in spades (as I told you over the phone). But I feel this needs to be put down in writing. I now feel confident that I am correct. I understand where I went wrong. Chalk it off to inexperience. I'm learning. Especially that it is easier to make inconclusive judgements about variety set classifications whenever either the source reference image is not very clear or sharp (not an uncirculated specimen) or that the coin specimen is not clear due to circulation wear/damage or due to excavated-related damage, much less both.

This was the case with both of the two new variety set classifications (4-L2 and 28-L3) that I had originally tried to prove to be new, when each actually was just another member of one of the variety sets you've already established. In both cases, I was not working with sharp detail. And so, consequently, neither coin is a new variety sample. I had to prove this to myself, beyond a shadow of a doubt. And I did.

I'm revising all my variety detail notes, accordingly. We will have to wait until James Spilman returns after the 27th of August, to give us the names, addresses, and phone no.'s of those he feels are true variety set collectors of the Colonial Virginia Halfpenny. If they don't have any new variety specimens, then we can begin to move forward with the variety set detail material that I worked up for you.

I also would like those 6 or so names in order to invite them to join my 1773 - Colonial Virginia copper Halfpenny Generation Newsletter. But, I couldn't wait any longer. Many new prospects wanted to see paperwork on this new newsletter. So, I've mailed out 5 prospective letters, with 3 more out tomorrow. I believe in "getting on" with something. And, so I've accumulated 10 prospective members, including myself and one anonymous member. Of the 8 remaining members, 7 have enthusiastically accepted my invitation, and the last person hasn't been invited until now --- that person is you. I would have said something sooner but I couldn't seem to get this letter out in the mail to you.

Anyway, I really want you "on board". And, I realize that you said that you weren't a variety collector, but you are variety conscious, and that's what really counts. Also, I want you to be able to keep track of whatever may develop. Furthermore, you are the "Star" of the very first newsletter. Maybe you shouldn't blow your own horn, but I will. We all owe you so much.

This brings me to another point, I'm in dire need of copies of your 1956 Monograph. If you have some extra copies stored away, I'd gladly pay you for them. I could use at least a dozen copies. I have one 74 year old gentleman who began collecting Colonial Virginia copper Halfpennies when he was 12 years old, and yet, he does not know anything about Newman varieties, has never seen your 1956 Monograph (or its "Additions"), and doesn't know what he really has. Is he ever in for a real treat?

I've found several members who are just starting to collect by the different varieties and know very little, but these are the types that can catch on fire and give Newman steadfast support through the many years to come.

On the copies of the Monograph, if it's alright with you, I'd like to get permission to "Xerox" some copies for the members of my Generation Newsletter. They are the "soldiers" who will spread the Newman variety Index as the standard, all over the East coast of the U.S.

Now back to your membership in the Generation Newsletter --- I've enclosed :

- A. a prospective member (letter /2pp.)

- B. the Constitution and Bylaws

- C. a questionnaire, which is just for your information
so you can see what I asked the other members.

Of course, you don't have to fill yours out, as I already know most of your answers. Please create a file for these items, as there will be more (Newsletters) to follow. The first newsletter will have a complete membership listing, subject to additions later. Total membership should not exceed 16.

Sincerely,


William N. Veach

THE GENERATION NEWSLETTER

Special Notice - - -
25 October 1990

BULLETIN BOARD LISTING --- REQUEST

(For: BB # 01)

Member:

Eric Newman

I request that you review the enclosed "Sample" copy of the new Bulletin Board coin/currency listing, with 2 categories.

You should not have any problems with either the written rules or the dual-sectioned format.

Although I had originally hoped that all members might be collectors of the 1773 - Colonial Virginia copper Halfpenny, this is not a prerequisite for any member, now. Might be a good time to start.

Regardless, I would now like to start listing coins and paper currency on behalf of all members who would like to do so. Any copper coins, any colonials, any colonial paper currency, --- or other Numismatic items.

Make your listing conform to the format of the listing example.

Submit (mail) listing of "items" immediately for next BULLETIN BOARD.

(Dated: 03 Nov 1990)

Until we develop an extensive "want list," we really won't have a solid basis for knowing what is at the top of everyone's personal list.

I think the listing might recycle every 2 to 4 weeks. We'll see.

Some of you may think that we are too tight a group to allow for a good exchange of collectable material. Actually, what we have here, is a group of experienced collectors, along with enough dealer oriented members to create a very interesting mixture. Obviously, there will be dry spells where the supply of good "new" material will stall, every now and then. But private collections don't come onto the market every day. Be patient. Be ready. And, be quick! (Note: Listing an item here, does not preclude selling it at a coin show or somewhere else. In that case, it's "gone.") This should be well understood and does not need to be in the rules.

Sincerely,

Bill

William N. Veach,
Founder/Editor

2 Enclosures:

1. Rules & 2. Sample

THE GENERATION NEWSLETTER

The Bulletin Board

The Generation Newsletter's Bulletin Board is now "open"! This is a special side benefit for those members who wish to participate in buying and selling Numismatic items: 1773 Colonial Virginia copper Halfpennies or any other coins or paper money.

The rules for participation are written below. Please read carefully.

RULES OF THE BULLETIN BOARD - 1990

(The Generation Newsletter)

1. Listing of "items" in either of the two major categories is open to all active members: collectors and dealer/collectors (any member).
2. Founder/Editor needs to be told which items have been sold in order to effectively remove those items from the "next" Bulletin Board listing.
3. Satisfaction/acceptable condition of an item purchased must be worked out between the trading principals.
4. The Generation Newsletter's Founder/Editor relies on the professional expertise of its very select membership to participate honestly and to resolve all differences, independently.
5. Initially, there will be a limit of 30 items, by each member, to be listed in Category I: "For Sale" items. This limit may prove to be totally unnecessary and could be revoked by the Founder/Editor at such time. A similar limit of 10 items, by each member, to be listed in Category II: "Want List" items exists also.
6. The Bulletin Board listing will be restricted to Numismatic items. The Founder/Editor will have the final say on what will be listed.
7. Any item listed for sale, but not sold, may be dropped from the "next" Bulletin Board listing. This will help make room on the listing for other items that may be more salable and keep the listing from growing "stale."
8. No "percentage" of the sales prices or any other form of income will be due to the Founder/Editor. The Bulletin Board is not profit oriented for the Founder/Editor. It is established expressly for the enjoyment and benefit of the select membership.
9. These rules should help prevent some cases of misunderstanding and many conflicts. Only the Founder/Editor may make, change or revoke any Bulletin Board rules.

* * * Founder/Editor: William N. Veach * * *

THE GENERATION NEWSLETTER

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*** BULLETIN BOARD # 1 ***

(11-03-90)



*** I: FOR SALE ITEMS *** II: WANT LIST ITEMS ***

I: FOR SALE

TYPE	VARIETY	GRADE	REMARKS/CONDITION	SELLER	ASK PRICE
*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****
1. 1773 Virg.	3-F	VF	EXTRA LGE PLANCHET	N. PETERS	\$ 85
2. 1773 Virg.	4-G	EF		B. VEACH	140
3. 1773 Virg.	10-W	VG	DIE DEFCT: JAW LINE	M. RINGO	400
4. 1773 Virg.	9-B	AU		B. VEACH	290
5. 1773 Virg.	5-Z	F		M. CALCIANO	175
6. 1773 Virg.	2-E	UNC	SLIGHT RED SPOTS	B. VLACK	1100
7. 1787 Mass.		F/VF		D. CANTRELL	190
8. 1788 Mass		VF/EF		B. VLACK	345
9. 1722 Woods		EF		J. BEYMER	100
10. 1786 NJ		VG		J. BEYMER	55
11. 1788 CT		F	Mailed bust/Face Rt.	M. RINGO	150
12. BAR CENT		VF	Sharp features/Brown	K. Wolfe	850

II: WANT LIST

TYPE	VARIETY	GRADE	REMARKS/CONDITION	BUYER
*****	*****	*****	*****	*****
1. 1773 Virg.	5-B	ALL		B. VEACH
2. 1773 Virg.	10-W	ALL		B. VEACH
3. 1773 Virg.	5-Z	ALL		B. VEACH
4. 1773 Virg.	2-E	ALL		B. VEACH
5. 1773 Virg.	11-D	ALL		B. VEACH
6. 1773 Virg.	12-W	ALL		B. VEACH
7. 1773 Virg.	13-T	ALL		G. TRUDGEN
8. 1785 VT			Fine or better.	G. TRUDGEN
9. Love Tokens		ALL		K. WOLFE
10. 1783 NOVA		ALL	Pointed rays/Lge US	K. WOLFE
11. 1773 Virg.	28-N	ALL		B. VLACK
12. NY Nova Eborac		VF	Rev.seated/ facing left	N. Peters

THE GENERATION NEWSLETTER

*** BULLETIN BOARD # ***

()
DATE



*** I: FOR SALE ITEMS *** II: WANT LIST ITEMS ***

I: FOR SALE

TYPE	VARIETY	GRADE	REMARKS/CONDITION	SELLER	ASK PRICE
*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
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- 12.

II: WANT LIST

TYPE	VARIETY	GRADE	REMARKS/CONDITION	BUYER
*****	*****	*****	*****	*****

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
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- 12.

*** Use Continuation Sheet, if necessary.

THE GENERATION NEWSLETTER

Dear Member:

08 November 1990

This is only the first BULLETIN BOARD listing distribution. I received some good input from several members.

More items can be added to BULLETIN BOARD # 2., scheduled to be mailed out on the 26th of November. Please get your information to me ASAP.

Eventually, we should have a 5 or 6 page listing.

Bill

William N. veach

2 Enclosures

1. Actual BULLETIN BOARD listing
2. Blank BB listing form

* * * BULLETIN BOARD # 1 * * *

(11-08-90)

* * * I: FOR SALE ITEMS * * * II: WANT LIST ITEMS * * *

I: FOR SALE

TYPE	VARIETY	GRADE	REMARKS/CONDITION	SELLER	ASK PRICE
*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****
1. 1773 Virg.	11-D	VF		R. Vlack	\$125
2. 1773 Virg.	20-X	VG		R. Vlack	30
3. 1773 Virg.	23-Q	VF/EF	Edge knocks/Dings	R. Vlack	50
4. 1773 Virg.	26-Y	VG/F		R. Vlack	50
5. 1773 Virg.	6-X	VF	No Period	M. Ringo	125
6. 1773 Virg.	22-S	UNC	Red and Brown	M. Ringo	450
7. 1773 Virg.	22-S	EF		M. Ringo	150
8. 1773 Virg.	24-K	VF		M. Ringo	100
9. 1773 Virg.	25-M	UNC	Red and Brown	M. Ringo	450
10. 1773 Virg.	25-M	EF	Light Granularity	M. Ringo	125
11. 1773 Virg.	27-J	UNC	Red and Brown	M. Ringo	450
12. 1773 Virg.	27-J	AU	Brown	M. Ringo	250
13. Kentucky Token		EF	Lettr'd Edge "London"	M. Ringo	250
14. 1787 Auctori Plebis		VF	Connecticut Type	M. Ringo	150
15. 1760 Voce Populi		EF	"Voce" Variety	M. Ringo	225
16. 1787 Nova Eborac		EF	Small Clip/Choice Brown	M. Ringo	400

II: WANT LIST

TYPE	VARIETY	GRADE	REMARKS/CONDITION	BUYER
*****	*****	*****	*****	*****
1. Bungtown Halfpence		Any		M. Ringo
2. Nova Eborac	Crosby 1-A	VF or Better	(No Rev. Die Break)	G. Trudgen
	Fig. Right			
3. 1787 CT	1.2-C	VF	Early Die State	G. Trudgen
4. 1786 CT	3-D.1	F or Better	(Large Head)	G. Trudgen
5. NY Currency	9/2/1775	All	Signed by:	G. Trudgen
			Anthony L. Breecker and/or John Broome	
6. NY Currency	3/5/1776	All	Signed By:	G. Trudgen
			G. Duyckinck, Jr. and/or James Jarvis	
7. 1773 Virg.	Any:	"Counterstamped"	(all grades!)	B. Veach
8. 1773 Virg.	10-W	Any	Any condition	B. Veach

THE GENERATION NEWSLETTER

*** BULLETIN BOARD # _____ ***

(_____)
DATE



*** I: FOR SALE ITEMS *** II: WANT LIST ITEMS ***

I: FOR SALE

TYPE	VARIETY	GRADE	REMARKS/CONDITION	SELLER	ASK PRICE
*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****

- 1.
- 2.
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II: WANT LIST

TYPE	VARIETY	GRADE	REMARKS/CONDITION	BUYER
*****	*****	*****	*****	*****

- 1.
- 2.
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*** Use Continuation Sheet, if necessary.

THE GENERATION NEWSLETTER

William N. Veach
10 December 1990

To Each Member:

I would like to extend a warm Christmas holiday greeting to each of you. This is the last Generation Newsletter correspondence going out this year.

It should be appreciated by all that the numerous items listed here in this BULLETIN BOARD # 2 are the result of thoughtful and generous efforts on the part of some very fine gentlemen who obviously are primarily trying to list something that might be "just what you might have been looking for."

Also, the "Want List" is growing and indicative of personal and very deep desires to acquire something rather "special." Perhaps Santa will see this want list, too.

It has been enjoyable sharing the past few months with each of you.

Take care and I'll see you next year.

Bill

(12-08-90)

Page 1.

* * * I: FOR SALE ITEMS * * * II: WANT LIST ITEMS * * *

I: FOR SALE

TYPE	VARIETY	GRADE	REMARKS/CONDITION	SELLER	ASK PRICE
*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****
1. 1773 Virg.	11-D	VF		R. Vlack	\$125
2. 1773 Virg.	20-X	VG		R. Vlack	30
3. 1773 Virg.	23-Q	VF/EF	Edge knocks/Dings	R. Vlack	50
4. 1773 Virg.	26-Y	VG/F		R. Vlack	50
5. 1773 Virg.	6-X	VF	No Period	M. Ringo	125
6. 1773 Virg.	22-S	UNC	Red and Brown	M. Ringo	450
7. 1773 Virg.	22-S	EF		M. Ringo	150
8. 1773 Virg.	24-K	VF		M. Ringo	100
9. 1773 Virg.	25-M	UNC	Red and Brown	M. Ringo	450
10. 1773 Virg.	25-M	EF	Light Granularity	M. Ringo	125
11. 1773 Virg.	27-J	UNC	Red and Brown	M. Ringo	450
12. 1773 Virg.	27-J	AU	Brown	M. Ringo	250
13. Kentucky Token		EF	Lettr'd Edge "London"	M. Ringo	250
14. 1787 Auctori Plebis		VF	Connecticut Type	M. Ringo	150
15. 1760 Voce Populi		EF	"Voce" Variety	M. Ringo	225
16. 1787 Nova Eborac		EF	Small Clip/Choice Brown	M. Ringo	400
17. 1787 Fugio	10G	G+	/Over/ Var.	N. Peters	125
18. 1786 Conn.	5.4-0.1	G-VG	Usual planchet	N. Peters	30
19. 1788 Conn.	2-D	F+	Light Obv. Mark	N. Peters	60
20. 1786 N.J.	23-R	VG-F	Nice Copper	N. Peters	65
21. 1791 Washington		G-VG	Lg Eagle, Mild Edge Dings	N. Peters	75
22. 1788 Mass. Cent		BU	Evanson (1950) Restrike	N. Peters	15
23. 1783 Constellat. Nova		F	Nice Smooth Medium	G. Trudgen	80
(Crosby 2-B)			Brown Surfaces		
24. 1787 Conn. Copper		VF	"Horned Bust" Variety	G. Trudgen	85
(Miller 4-L)					
25. 1787 Conn. Copper		F-VF	Nice	G. Trudgen	75
(Miller 33.36-T.2)					
26. 1787 N.J. Copper		F-VF	Uneven Strike, Lt Brown	G. Trudgen	60
27. 1783 Washington Draped Bust		F-VF	Minor Edge Damage	G. Trudgen	35
(No Button)					
28. 1781 North American		F		G. Burger	85
29. 1783 Georgivs Triumpo		VF		G. Burger	450
30. 1787 Vermont Britannia		VF	"Bastard Head," Weak Rev.	G. Burger	300
31. 1787 Fugio	22M	G		G. Burger	250
32. 1767 French Colonies		EF	Counterstamp "RF" with	G. Burger	275
			Very Small Clip at 5:30 o'clock		
33. Washington Undated		VG	Double Head	G. Burger	50
34. 1786 N.J.	23-T	VG	R4	G. Burger	75
35. 1786 N.J.	21-0	VF	R6	G. Burger	450
36. 1787 N.J.	38A	VG-F	Some Rim Dings, R4	G. Burger	175
37. 1787 N.J.	64T	VF	Large Planchet - Dark	G. Burger	125

(Continued on Page 2.)

(12-08-90)

Page 2.

* * * I: FOR SALE ITEMS * * * II: WANT LIST ITEMS * * *

II: WANT LIST

TYPE	VARIETY	GRADE	REMARKS/CONDITION	BUYER
*****	*****	*****	*****	*****
1. Bungtown Halfpence		Any		M. Ringo
2. Nova Eborac	Crosby 1-A	VF or Better	(No Rev. Die Break)	G. Trudgen
	Fig. Right			
3. 1787 CT	1.2-C	VF	Early Die State	G. Trudgen
4. 1786 CT	3-D.1	F	or Better (Large Head)	G. Trudgen
5. NY Currency	9/2/1775	All	Signed by:	G. Trudgen
	Anthony L. Breecker and/or John Broome			
6. NY Currency	3/5/1776	All	Signed By:	G. Trudgen
	G. Duyckinck, Jr. and/or James Jarvis			
7. 1773 Virg.	Any:	"Counterstamped"	(all grades!)	B. Veach
8. 1773 Virg.	10-W	Any	Any condition	B. Veach
9. 1785 Conn.	6.3-G.2	Any		N. Peters
10. 1786 Conn.	5.13-I	Any		N. Peters
11. 1787 Conn.	7-I	Any		N. Peters
12. 1787 Conn.	8-A.1	Any		N. Peters
13. 1787 Conn.	52-G.1	Any		N. Peters
14. 1783 Chalmers Shilling		Any		N. Peters
15. Lord Baltimore		Any		G. Burger

*** *** *** *** *** *** *** ***

THE GENERATION NEWSLETTER

*** BULLETIN BOARD # ***

(
DATE



*** I: FOR SALE ITEMS *** II: WANT LIST ITEMS ***

I: FOR SALE

TYPE	VARIETY	GRADE	REMARKS/CONDITION	SELLER	ASK PRICE
*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
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II: WANT LIST

TYPE	VARIETY	GRADE	REMARKS/CONDITION	BUYER
*****	*****	*****	*****	*****

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
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*** Use Continuation Sheet, if necessary.

I am now seriously preparing for my departure to America. I purpose sending my luggage, books, instruments, &c., by All or Falconer, and taking my passage to New York in one of the spring or summer packets, partly for settling some business with the Postoffice there, and partly that I may see you on my way to Philadelphia, and learn thereby more perfectly the state of affairs there. Your affectionate father,

B. FRANKLIN.

717. TO SAMUEL RHODES (P. H. S.)

London, Jan. 5. 1774.

DEAR FRIEND,

I received your Favours of Oct. 29 and 31, inclosing the Votes, for which I thank you.

I am much obliged to the Assembly for the repeated Marks of their Confidence in me. The Great Officers of State having generally been in the Country, no public Business of consequence has been for some time transacted here. But the Parliament meets next Week, when all will return again to their Stations and the Duty of their Offices, and the Boards resume Business. — I do not find that your Laws of last Winter have yet been presented, and the time is now near for carrying your Paper money Act into Execution. At present I do not see any Difficulty likely to arise upon it, on the Part of the Board of Trade, unless one should be started on the —, there being no mention of the Value or kind of the Money to be struck, whether Sterling or Proclamations, or any other. But it being an Act of Pennsylvania, I suppose it is to be understood that the Money will be of the Value of the present Currency of that Province. — Virginia has lately had a Quantity of Copper Halfpence struck at the

Vol VII

Alburt H. Smythe (1766)

176 THE WRITINGS OF BENJAMIN FRANKLIN [1774

Mint here for their Province. Inclos'd I send you a Specimen of theirs. They may serve to keep out the worthless counterfeit Trash of late so common.

With great Esteem & Respect, I am ever

Dear Friend

Yours most affectionately

B. FRANKLIN.

718. TO WILLIAM FRANKLIN (B. M.)

London, February 2, 1774.

DEAR SON: — This Line is just to acquaint you that I am well, and that my Office of Deputy-Postmaster is taken from me. As there is no Prospect of your being ever promoted to a better Government, and that you hold has never defray'd its Expenses, I wish you were well settled in your farm. 'Tis an honest and a more honourable, because a more independent Employment. You will hear from others the Treatment I have receiv'd. I leave you to your own Reflections and Determinations upon it, and remain ever your affectionate Father,

B. FRANKLIN.

719. FROM THOMAS CUSHING AND OTHERS,
COMMITTEE, ETC. (L. C.)

Boston, December 21st, 1773.

SIR: — It has been the Expectation of many of the Colonists that the last Session of Parliament would have put a final end to those Grievances under which they had so long been oppressed, and against which they had so long in vain Remonstrated. They expected that the Revenue Acts would have been repealed and that they should no more have had reason to complain of

from Sir

VIRGINIA HALFPENCE

Photo of Reverse E - Point of leaf almost reaches base line of A and points between legs of A. Left part of bottom stroke of 3 normally distant from 7. The 3 has a smooth outside curve at closest part of 3 to 7.

Photo of Reverse F - Point of leaf aims at center of right serif on right base of A and ends far below baseline of A. Left part of bottom stroke of 3 very close to 7. The left part of the bottom stroke of 3 has a sharp turn at the closest point to 7.

DIE VARIETY CLASSIFICATION INDEX
FOR
THE COLONIAL VIRGINIA COPPER HALFPENCE

REVERSES, with 7 harpstrings:

Rev. *****	Characteristics *****	With Obv.# *****
F	Tops of 73 fall away from rim line, to right. VIR bases are low. Top of G curls up. G is high. Second I near to arms. N is low and tilts right. Third I is parallel to horizontal divider. Right leaf ends close to and opposite center of first I. Left leaf ends opposite center of A. Large lion touches vertical line. Third small lion touches branch. Both periods are above the center line.	3
G	Tops of 73 fall away slightly from rim, to right. VI bases are low and both tilt right. G tilts right and is nearer I than R. Top of G curls up. Second I touches arms. Third I shaft extension slopes down to right relative to horizontal divider. Right leaf ends opposite center of first I. Left leaf ends opposite center of A. Large lion does not touch vertical line. Third small lion touches branch. Both periods are above the center line.	4
H	VIRGI is spaced evenly. First I tilts slightly left. Top of G is somewhat straight. Second I barely touches arms. The leaf under V has angular bend to straight vertical position. N is low. Third I shaft extension slopes down to the right relative to the horizontal divider. Right leaf ends opposite center of first I. Left leaf opposite left tip of right base serif of A. Large lion touches the vertical line. Third small lion touches branch. Both periods are above the center line.	8
J	V is low. I is nearer to V than R. Top of G turns up just slightly. Second I touches arms. N touches arms. Third I slopes down to right relative to horizontal divider. The A tilts right slightly and has defective right base. Right leaf ends opposite left side of first I. Left leaf ends opposite center of left base serif of A. Large lion touches vertical line. The third small lion touches branch. Both periods are at the center line.	27
K	3 is smaller than 7. V touches leaf. V is larger: 4.5/64ths tall vs 4/64ths as normal. Otherwise, VIRGI has near perfect spacing and baseline. Second I barely touches arms. N and I are low. Third I is parallel to horizontal divider. Right leaf ends opposite left tip of base of first I. Left leaf opposite left tip of right base serif of A. Large lion touches vertical line. The two bottom small lions touch the branch and each other. Period after A is above center line. Period after 3 is centered.	24

DIE VARIETY CLASSIFICATION INDEX
FOR
THE COLONIAL VIRGINIA COPP

OBVERSES, with "no period" after "GEORGIVS":

OBV. #	64ths in. ". to ."	Characteristics	With Rev.
*****	*****	*****	*****
8	31	G in GEORGIVS is low. O and second G are low. I in GEORGIVS is larger. First I in III tilts sharply to left and second I tilts slightly to left. Period after I is centered and midway between I and R. R in REX tilts left. E is nearer X than R. Period after X is above the center line and slightly nearer X.	H
9	31	O in GEORGIVS is high and nearer E than R. Second G is high. Baseline of second and third I in III extends higher than baseline of R in REX. Period after I is centered and nearer R. REX is evenly spaced. E tilts slightly right. X is quite distant from curl. (Totally unlike Obv. # 5 - - also matched with Rev. "B") X tilts left. Period actually is centered and midway between X and curl.	B
10	27 1/2	G in GEORGIVS is far from E. O nearer E than R. R is very near G. V is above baseline. Top of S is weakly formed. First I in III is low and tilts left. Baseline of third I even with baseline of R in REX. Period after I is centered and nearer I than R. Unique: when vertical upright of R is extended, it passes right under the tip of the nose of King George (R is usually opposite King's nose bridge on any other Obv. variety). E in REX is nearer X than R. X seems higher than normal baseline. X very near curl. Period after X is centered and midway between X and curl.	W
11	30	O in GEORGIVS is nearer to E than R. V is high. Second I in III is slightly high and tilts left slightly. Period after I is centered and nearer I than R. E in REX tilts slightly right. Very little space between letters of REX. X is very near curl. Period after X is centered and it is midway between X and curl.	D

DIE VARIETY CLASSIFICATION INDEX
FOR
THE COLONIAL VIRGINIA COPPER HALFPENCE

REVERSES, with 6 harpstrings:

Rev. *****	Characteristics *****	With Obv. ****
A	Small 7's in date. Period after 3 is midway between 3 and V in VIRGI. V is larger and is below baseline. First I tilts right. G is larger. Second I does not touch coat of arms. Third I tilts right and shaft extends down to right relative to horizontal divider. Full denticles. The right leaf ends to right of the first I. Left leaf ends opposite the right tip of left base serif of A. Large lion touches vertical line. Third (lowest of 3) small lion does touch branch.	I
B	3 is smaller than second 7. G distant from both R and I. Second I barely touches arms. The third I is parallel to horizontal divider. A of NIA tilts right. Horse's lower hind legs are weakly struck. Right leaf ends to right of first I. Left leaf ends opposite right tip of left base serif of A. Large lion does not touch vertical line. Third small lion touches branch. In some specimens, 4th, 5th, and 6th strings from left side of harp are double. Period after A is above the center line. Period after 3 is centered.	5 9

Handwritten notes:
"7's in date"
"V is larger"
"below baseline"
"First I tilts right"
"G is larger"
"Second I does not touch coat of arms"
"Third I tilts right"
"shaft extends down to right relative to horizontal divider"
"Full denticles"
"The right leaf ends to right of the first I"
"Left leaf ends opposite the right tip of left base serif of A"
"Large lion touches vertical line"
"Third (lowest of 3) small lion does touch branch"

REVERSES, with 7 harpstrings:

Rev. *****	Characteristics *****	With Obv.# *****
D	Second 7 is higher than 3. Baseline of 73 does not clear arms. V is low and tilts slightly right. Top of G is not curled up. Second I does not touch arms. The third I is parallel to horizontal divider. Right leaf ends right of center of first I. Left leaf ends opposite right tip of left base serif of A. Large lion touches vertical line. Third small lion touches branch. Period after date is near top line. Period after A is above center.	7 11 15
E	Tops of 73 fall away from rim line, to right. VIRGI is evenly spaced. V is low, almost touches leaf and tilts to right. Top of G curls up. G is slightly high. Second I almost touches arms. N is low and it tilts right. Third I is parallel to the horizontal divider. Right leaf ends opposite center of the first I. Left leaf ends opposite center of A. Large lion does not touch vertical line. The third small lion touches branch. Third I parallel to horizontal divider. Period after A is centered. Period after 3 is near top line.	2

DIE VARIETY CLASSIFICATION INDEX
FOR
THE COLONIAL VIRGINIA COPPER HALFPECE

Eric: 3-15-90
Replacement
page, for p. # 11.
Bill

REVERSES, with 7 harpstrings:

Rev. *****	Characteristics *****	With Obv. # *****
F	Tops of 73 fall away from rim line, to right. VIR bases are low. Top of G curls up. G is high. Second I naer to arms. N is low and tilts right. Third I is parallel to horizontal divider. Right leaf ends close to and opposite center of first I. Left leaf ends opposite center of A. Large lion touches vertical line. Third small lion touches branch. Both periods are above the center line.	3
G	Tops of 73 fall away slightly from rim, to right. VI bases are low and both tilt right. G tilts right and is nearer I than R. Top of G curls up. Second I touches arms. Third I shaft extension slopes down to right relative to horizontal divider. Right leaf ends opposite center of first I. Left leaf ends opposite center of A. Large lion does not touch vertical line. Third small lion touches branch. Both periods are above the center line.	4
H	VIRGI is spaced evenly. First I tilts slightly left. Top of G is somewhat straight. Second I barely touches arms. The leaf under V has angular bend to straight vertical position. N is low. Third I shaft extension slopes down to the right relative to the horizontal divider. Right leaf ends opposite center of first I. Left leaf opposite left tip of right base serif of A. Large lion touches the vertical line. Third small lion touches branch. Both periods are above the center line.	8
J	V is low. I is nearer to V than R. Top of G turns up just slightly. Second I touches arms. N touches arms. Third I slopes down to right relative to horizontal divider. The A tilts right slightly and has defective right base. Right leaf ends opposite left side of first I. Left leaf ends opposite center of left base serif of A. Large lion touches vertical line. The third small lion touches branch. Both periods are at the center line.	27
K	3 is smaller than 7. V touches leaf. V is larger: 4.5/64ths tall vs 4/64ths as normal. Otherwise, VIRGI has near perfect spacing and baseline. Second I barely touches arms. N and I are low. Third I is parallel to horizontal divider. Right leaf ends opposite left tip of base of first I. Left leaf leaf opposite left tip of right base serif of A. Large lion touches vertical line. The two bottom small lions touch the branch and each other. Period after A is above center line. Period after 3 is centered.	24

Catalogue Numismatic
Vol. 24, Oct 1901 p. 37

"The very sudden death, in May (1909) last at his summer home in Chelmsford, Mass., of Dr. Thomas Hall, for many years a member of the Numismatic Society, leaves a vacancy in the ranks of prominent collectors of Americana. Dr. Hall's cabinet was remarkable in many ways: . . . and especially the Connecticut Cents, was remarkable for its completeness; he had in preparation a monograph of some of these, and a portion of it he had privately printed; but we fear that physical infirmity prevented him from bringing it to a conclusion. . . . His disposition of his cabinet has not as yet been discussed by his family, but it is known that Dr. Hall had some at least of his very complete groups made by his mother, Mrs. George Thompson."

Edward P. Barnabe



FIGURE 12-KK

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Ted Prange alleges

E Rev & Rev F are the same

2 is found with D , not E or F

3 - E is the correct joiner

- 840 1773 Virginia Halfpenny. No period after Georgius. Newman 13-T. Rarity 8. This obverse and reverse were unknown when Mr. Newman published his Monograph on this series (A.N.S. NNM #135, 1956). In the A.N.S. Museum Notes #10, 1962 (pages 137-143, Plates 28 and 29), Mr. Newman published additional information on the reverse and described this new variety as well as several other new ones, and included a rarity table for all known varieties. This specimen is perfectly centered and sharply struck on a perfect planchet. It is far superior to the plate coin. A deep olive brown with a proof-like surface, with glittering hints of blue. UNCIRCULATED.



Lot No. 841

- 841 1773 Virginia Halfpenny. No period. 8 Harpstrings. **A NEW VARIETY!** Hitherto unknown, and neither obverse or reverse is mentioned in either of Newman's aforementioned works. We'll have to call this Newman 14-u. The distance between the centers of the two obverse periods is 32/64th of an inch. The first G is low. The final period is low. The reverse has the first leaf under the left edge of the upright of the first I. The R appears to be doublecut. The second I touches the branch. The third I slopes downward relative to the horizontal divider. Leaf ends under the central A and points to the right serif of the left leg of A. There is a die flaw at the foot of the right leg of A. There is a very definite center dot on the vertical divider. Perfectly centered and very sharply struck on a flawless planchet that is broader than the normal Halfpennies. Every tiny detail is very sharp and clear. A full proof-like surface. Deep olive with glittering golden pink and blue overtones. A beautiful and very important coin. Ex Brand Collection. UNCIRCULATED.

Stacks Sale 6/20/73



Lot No. 1060 (enlarged)

- 1060 **Unpublished variety of Virginia Halfpenny. 1773.** New obverse die, no period after GEORGIVS. Rev. Newman "E". Very Fine. Unevenly struck-up on the obverse and with three really small rim nicks. Until Mr. Newman assigns different designations, we will call this variety 14-E. Undoubtedly of considerable rarity as reverse E heretofore only found in combination with obverse 2 (Rarity 8). From England.

Obv. No. 14 (closely resembles obverse 9). Distance between centers of periods $31/64$ ". Roman numerals III evenly spaced and centered. Base line of third I of III almost even with base line of R (the I considerably higher on obv. 9). Period closer to I than to R (the opposite applies to obv. 9). Letters in REX widely spaced, the E equidistant between R and X (the E favors the R on obv. 9). The O in GEORGIVS is high, and the S low, as on obverse 9, but here the S is closer to the V and farther from the head. We have illustrated both the obverse and reverse of this coin in enlargement, as the Newman illustration for reverse E (on Plate IV of his original publication) is incorrect. *It does not match his description on page 44.* In his description of reverse E, Mr. Newman states that the "V is low and close to leaf." Actually, it touches the leaf. The original Newman reference on this series was entitled *Coinage for Colonial Virginia*; it was published as A.N.S. Monograph No. 135 in 1956. Additions, clarifications and corrections appeared a few years ago in *Museum Notes X, The American Numismatic Society*, as "Additions to Coinage for Colonial Virginia."



Reverse

1st 7 has short upright. Lot No. 1061 (enlarged)

- Back 1061 **Maryland. 1783. Threepence. I. CHALMERS.** Strictly Very Fine. The planchet slightly uneven; part of the reverse date, legend and devices doubled. Seriously impaired by a deep reverse scratch from the center plant-like device to the edge and a much shorter but equally deep scratch, which severs the stem of the emblematic plant and extends slightly to the left. Very rare. Ex. Boyd coll. This coin was originally in the Virgil Brand holdings. It appeared as lot 44 of the (Raymond Macallister, J. C. Margenthau offering of selected (Brand) U.S. coins, Oct. 18, 1953). The piece was described "Extremely Fine" and illustrated on Plate I. No mention was made of the impairment and it managed to bring more than a Good Higley Threepence in the same sale.

- 1062 **New Jersey Cent. 1786.** Large shield. Maris 14-J (R-1). Very Fine and bold. Medium to dark brown color; some unimportant reverse dirt and verdigris.

Colonial Newsletter
Vol. 2, No. 4 Oct 1961 37

"The very sudden death, in May (1909) last at his summer home in Chelmsford, Mass., of Dr. Thomas Hall, for many years a member of the Boston Numismatic Society, leaves a vacancy in the ranks of prominent collectors of Americana. Dr. Hall's cabinet was remarkable in many ways; and especially the Connecticut Cents, was remarkable for its completeness; he had in preparation a monograph of some of these, and a portion of it he had privately printed; but we fear that physical infirmity prevented him from bringing it to a conclusion. ... The disposition of his cabinet has not as yet been discussed by his family, but it is known that Dr. Hall hoped that some at least of its very complete groups might be kept together, and never dispersed."

Edward R. Barnsley

NEW VIRGINIA VARIETY

At the recent ANA convention I discovered a new Virginia halfpenny variety. Of importance is the fact that both dies are new.
 Eric Newman's description of the piece follows:

OBVERSE 13

Middle I of III slightly nearer I on left than I on right.
 Period slightly nearer I than R. All letters widely spaced.
 Continuation of upright of R of REX would fall entirely on the front of the nose adjacent to the tip. Diameter through point of left leaf of three top leaves would almost touch right side of S. $30\frac{1}{2}$ / 64ths of an inch between centers of periods.

REVERSE 1

Leaf ends opposite center and right side of upright of I.
 R should tilt farther to right. Leaf ends close to and opposite right end of left base of A. Third I parallel to horizontal divider.

Paul Weinstein



VIRGINIA 13-T



FUGIO (12)-KK

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A VIRGINIA NUMISMATIC DISCOVERY

(PLATES 30-31)

GRAHAM P. DYER AND PETER P. GASPAR

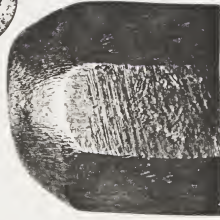
Eric P. Newman's admirably comprehensive account of the issue of the Virginia halfpenny of 1773 appeared more than twenty years ago.¹ During its preparation he visited the Royal Mint in London, and part of what he wrote was influenced by his examination there of three surviving tools for the Virginia coinage.

In 1910 these three tools were published in the second volume of W. J. Hocking's catalogue of the Royal Mint Museum, where they are described under the heading VIRGINIA in the following terms:²

- 2833. Halfpenny. Matrix. *Obv.*, laureated bust of King George II to right without armour; no inscription. See coin no. 3916.
- 2834. Halfpenny. Punch. *Obv.*, as the matrix no. 2833; no inscription.
- 2835. Halfpenny. Die. *Rev.*, 1773. Crowned and garnished shield charged with the arms of Virginia; the date above divided by the crown; VIRGINIA. See coin no. 3916.

¹ E. P. Newman, *Coinage for Colonial Virginia*, ANSNM 135 (New York, 1956); "Additions to *Coinage for Colonial Virginia*," ANSMN 10 (1962), pp. 137-43. We are grateful to Mr. Newman for encouraging us to write this paper and for many helpful suggestions for its improvement. We thank David Sellwood for carrying out the hardness determination cited herein, and Robert Meaden for the photographic illustrations. The study of the die collection of the Royal Mint by Gaspar has been supported by the National Endowment for the Humanities under grant RC-27870-77-753.

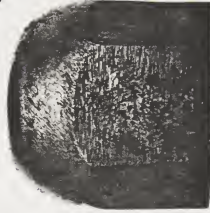
² W. J. Hocking, *Catalogue of the Coins, Medals, Dies and Seals in the Museum of the Royal Mint*, vol. 2, *Dies, Medals and Seals* (London, 1910), p. 119.



Punch, Hocking 2834

Matrix, Hocking 2833

Virginia Numismatic Discovery



Punch, Hocking 371

Matrix or Die, Hocking 2835

Virginia Numismatic Discovery

Virginia

UPDATE CNL Fugio Weight Survey

In CNL No. 80, pages 1053-1068, we presented a preliminary report on the results of the CNL Fugio Weight Survey. Now, some two years later, we present an updated report to our Patrons and a summary of the revised statistical data that are the result of this continuing investigation. The updated Summary Worksheets appear on pages 1239 and 1240.

There are now 667 Fine Ray Fugio Cents of 1787 included in our database, 87 Club Ray varieties, and 42 New Haven specimens. This is an approximate 12% increase in each category. Our plan is to continue indefinitely to add to the basic database and Patrons who may not have submitted their data are encouraged to do so by supplying data on the Survey Sheet which was provided on page 1067. Our sincere thanks to Patrons who have contributed data on the Fugios and on the Virginia Halfpence as well. This present report will cover only the Fugio Cents. The Virginia Halfpence of 1773 will be the subject at some later time; evidently, so few Virginia Halfpence are attributed by die variety that there is considerable difficulty in reporting quantitative data. This problem will hopefully be ameliorated by an upcoming revision by Eric P. Newman to his original work on the Virginia Halfpence.

A major change has been incorporated in the histograms plotted from our data. The increments have been increased from one grain to five grains on the horizontal axis of the plots. We have learned that this choice provides much improved smoothing of the shapes of the data distribution, as discussed in Appendix B -- page 1065 -- of the preliminary report, and is now established as a CNL standard for histograms of the Early American coinages. This change has the additional advantage of ease for reading the horizontal scale from the charts as each major subdivision on the horizontal axis equals five grains. The vertical axis will vary from time to time to better indicate the shape of the distribution curve, in a relative sense, of different groups. These changes do not affect the relative value of each mark in the plot as each still indicates the actual weight of a single specimen within the selected scale, i.e. -- one mark, regardless of its width or height, represents a single coin the weight of which lies within the five grain interval of the horizontal scale.

The Summary Worksheet has been revised in order to "clean up" the chart and to increase the readability by eliminating extraneous symbols. Each die variety combination has been updated to reflect the new information received from our Patrons. The rarity tabulations have also been revised to reflect current "1991" estimates of relative rarity in accordance with the Sheldon scale; as always -- remember that these are ONLY estimates. One die variety combination, 102-GG, has been moved to the Fine Ray category from its previously incorrect position in the New Haven category, and Note G has been added to emphasize the change; this error resulted from the computer sorting the varieties by number and ye Editor failing to catch the error in time to correct the original chart prior to publication.

Four histograms are plotted in this update. The first is the plot for the 667 Fine Ray specimens now recorded in the database. Next is the histogram for Fugio 15-Y which shows very obvious signs of a double or triple peaked curve indicating two or three substantive differences in the origins of the several subgroups comprising the overall group -- differences which must await future analysis for explanation. Finally -- simply as a matter of interest -- the histograms of the Round End Club Ray Fugios versus the Concave End Club Ray Fugios are plotted to illustrate the weight differences between these two Club Ray categories, again suggesting differences in manufacture that must await future analysis for explanation.



THE GENERATION NEWSLETTER
Of



The 1773 - Colonial Virginia Copper Halfpenny

W. N. Veach
Founder/Editor

Date: 18 March 1991
Vol.-01, Issue-04

"Resolve to protect its
historic integrity and
to promote its welfare"

Of General Interest

I feel that the "Generation" as a group is a great success. From your letters, I am getting confirmation that our members are glad they joined. All who have written seem to be experiencing benefits, as I had hoped for.

While the Newsletter is written along the lines of a "monolog" in the very first few issues, I don't want to hog the entire forum. If any member wishes to contribute information in the Newsletter, that's fine. We are like a family (at a discussion table). If anyone wants to stand up and address the other members --- it's no big deal. You don't have to write a formal essay --- go ahead and ask your questions, give your opinion, your analysis, no matter how small in scope, and you just might stir the "ashes of truth" and start everyone off in a new and exciting direction.

And now, I'd like to refer to a man who has his "house in order." There must be some precise or even vague reason why you devote your leisure time and resources to collecting Colonial Virginia copper Halfpennies or any other specific type of coin. You must feel compelled to do so for some reason. It's really extraordinary! In other words, those we find walking the same path as ourselves, collecting the Colonial Virginia Halfpennies, are very rare birds, indeed.

But, are we collecting these coins for the same reasons? Whether you are accumulating them for their distinct Colonial historic integrity, because they were not just personalized commercial "tokens," but legal and authorized coinage of an entire colony, or for profit in the long term, you may want to insure their place in the order of your house.

Indeed, to hold on to most of my Colonial Virginia Halfpennies and never let go of those varieties/grades that are preferred, I will want to specify in my will, exactly to whom I will want them to go. Otherwise, upon one's demise and without specific "assignment" directions in a will, one's coin collection could very easily become just another part of one's common estate and (depending on respective state law) it could be appraised and then sold in a general estate auction or consigned to a specialized coin auction. Regardless, in lieu of specific assignment to someone, these jewels of labor's love will be insensitively lost among the coin dealers of the world. This could be occurring whenever major coin collections are auctioned off. Some may say that that's the way it ought to be. But, I would disagree.



Of general Interest, cont'd ---

Hopefully, each of us who wants to eternally keep these coins in the family will somehow succeed in establishing a precedent for finding a suitable heir to continue to keep the continuity of this rare collection within a family line.

MEMBERSHIPS: "Changed"

We still number "20" in strength. However, through displacement, we have gained a new face, Ron Iliffe of Burke, Virginia, while losing a much valued anonymous member. And so, we move on. Welcome aboard Ron!

Note: any new member is automatically given copies of all our previous Newsletters and reading materials. Ron is abreast of us, right now.

Sharing Mutual Resources

As we come across any specific or even general information, research material from investigative analysis, or documented diary passages, all concerned parties should be given immediate access to that information. We must learn to share our information resources. Sharing our knowledge and providing details of all new discoveries will help to develop a much greater number of collectors, through the years.

Also, as we endeavor to develop a greater following for these 1773 - Colonial Virginia Halfpennies (1773 Virg.'s), on occasion I will seek assistance and capitalize on the more unique and specialized resources available to some of you. I'm sure some of you will have something to offer in due time.

There is a possibility that the current number of approximately 125 U.S. collectors of the 1773 Virg.'s may some day reach over 30,000. The sooner the better. For, with the higher numbers should come the needed realization that this species of coinage is truly "rare." Then the first phase to protect their historic integrity will be initiated by restoring its image of true rarity, by virtue of just collecting by die variety set classifications. It's as simple as that.

The Generation Newsletter is the leading edge of that movement to rid the marketplace of apathy and neglect to these 1773 Virg.'s.

THE GENERATION NEWSLETTER

Off the Record ---

I can imagine that many of the membership of the Generation Newsletter have reservations as to how fast a pace I seem to have set for us, to this point. Quite true. We have covered a lot of rough ground in a seemingly short time. But, I think that this was the only way to do this. Afterall, if I had strung out these first few issues, let's say, into 5 or 6 issues, you would have felt so frustrated that you would have lost interest, just waiting for the next morsel of detail to develop.

I will be slowing down (have already) just a bit --- the Newsletter should be coming out every 3 or 4 months --- on the 10th of that month.

Just as we needed to get past this point in our introspection, we also need to diversify into side issues, or we risk "burn out."

Of A Permanent Record ---

These issues are designed to be a permanent "reference" --- a source of inspiration and enjoyment. They can be literally read over and over, in the same sitting.

Furthermore, if any member happens to ruin a page or lose an entire issue, please ask me for another copy. Don't just do without it. That is one of the reasons I'm here, to provide that benefit.

FEATURE SUBJECT

Which do you feel retain the greatest integrity: the "Circulated" or the "Uncirculated" specimens? Another way to express this same question is: which type will increase greater in relative value over the next 10 years?

I really feel that this Feature Subject could be the cause of some very basic feelings of conflict within our own appraisals. Are we satisfied --- comfortable with the normal appreciation (view point) of uncirculated coins when contemplating those found among Colonial Virginia Halfpennies?

Variety notwithstanding, a choice brilliant uncirculated specimen, light orange copper with gleaming patina and no spots, no streaks, and a sharply struck, perfectly centered Obverse and Reverse would seem to be the most desirable of all 1773 Colonial Virginia copper Halfpennies attainable.

But, how true is this? Afterall, the most worn specimen is one that has experienced extensive acceptance through honest labor and hard times within the business community, informal as it was, in rural Colonial America. Its mere condition is absolute testimony of its genuine service to the community.

THE GENERATION NEWSLETTER

FEATURE SUBJECT, Cont'd ---

Not only did its little copper jacket weather the hardships of commerce, but it also survived what might be interpreted as the political transgressions of those who chose to punish King George III for his interference and harassing taxation, by inflicting disfigurement upon the face of these little copper Halfpennies, with some type of sharp instrument.

While the copper coinage was essential to small business transactions, the negative sentiment towards the source of its authorization, made the King of England the "viper" of Colonial Virginia. Evidence of this is found on the face of many of these circulated coins. Many Obverses look as though someone had taken a nail and scratched an asterisk across the King's face.

Others have said that this crude act of defacing the copper coin was a means of marking the coin itself, as one found to be acceptable in trade and thus marked for future acceptance, without extra inspection. I find such an explanation lacking in credibility for two reasons. One, the marks are invariably found across the Obverse bust of King George III, not the Reverse and suggest the high emotions of that period, against the British King just prior to the American Revolution. Two, any copper could be too easily so marked to deem it as acceptable in trade. No, it seems that King George "was" the target for defacing.

Indeed, "time" has been the most charitable predator of these 218 year old survivors.

Such character do these circulated specimens have, that they represent the most successful Colonial endeavor to realize local copper coinage. And, even after the break with England at the outset of the American Revolution, these Halfpennies continued to endure the hardships of a war-torn country. In fact, quite creditable evidence has been offered by Mr. Newman in his 1956 Monograph: "Coinage for Colonial Virginia" that the majority of copper found at excavation sites in Williamsburg, Virginia supports the theory that these Virginia Halfpennies were "well circulated" within the colony.

Additional "finds" in excavations outside Virginia have also supported the premise that Colonial Virginia copper Halfpennies were widely accepted and circulated in all the colonies bordering Virginia.

All of this brings to mind an impression of accepted regional value and Colonial "copper" integrity for all the circulated Virginia specimens.

But, what about all those beautiful brilliant uncirculated specimens that were hidden away in some cache or hoard? These near perfect coins were spared all the rude and harsh punishment of the common circulated ones. Most likely, they were protected against exposure to either light or air, hidden away, safely for many, many years.

FEATURE SUBJECT, Cont'd ---

Yet, these spotless, unmarred, sharply featured beauties lack the basic character of the common circulated specimens. They have no real experience in the business world, nor have they stood the test of general acceptance.

So, what good are they? Are they "truly" genuine? Can they be? They're "unused," "virgin," "untested," and a bit suspect. What, after all, is historic about them? When did they ever contribute to a day's work? Never! Throughout the entire conflict of justification by circulation, these brilliant uncirculated specimens "hid in the closet." And now, they've reappeared to claim just reward and equal recognition right along side the poor battered and well worn circulated veterans.

The ghost of historic integrity whispers: "No way ---." "Hide The again!" But the Unc.'s are so pure, so beautiful. They are the perfect "example" of what these vanguard Colonial American copper Halfpennies were actually like in the beginning.

So, which would you rather have? Why? Put your money where - - - .

Who said we can't "make the rules?" We can if we understand them. And, by deciding what's worthy of general demand, we can lead that demand. What "catches on," can easily lead the way. Others may possibly follow closely behind, so they can benefit from our example.

There is "such a precedent" made for us by the example in all other periods in our history, that an uncirculated specimen has always held the highest awe of admiring collectors. Is it that the Colonial American period needs to be an exception to this trend? Because, the mere usage of the copper coinage of that period was in itself a most important political and financial "happening" in Colonial Virginia. Copper coinage was a precedent! These little coppers were the beginning of a new way of commerce. And they succeeded! The circulated survivors of this copper coinage are the true rarities, and one might say that they are the only ones worthy of preserving, protecting and admiring.

This practice of valuing a circulated coin specimen, higher than an uncirculated one, is supported in a parallel situation in which "cancelled" stamps are sometimes (due to special circumstances) priced at a higher retail value than a "mint" identical stamp. Unheard of? Maybe. However, this has happened in the very early U.S. stamps: (case in point) Scott's catalog #102 thru #111, 1875 RE-ISSUE OF 1861 - 1866 ISSUES. The market value for each "Average Used Each" is much higher than its counterpart market value indicated for "Average Unused Each." Example: #111, Avg. Unused Each = \$5500.00, while #111, Avg. Used Each = \$20000.00. So, here we can see that the used or cancelled stamp is much more highly valued than the unused (mint) counterpart. The reason for this exception to the general rule, is said to be that there were "many more" uncirculated (mint) stamps retained by collectors than the number of those actually cancelled through mailing (to one's self, generally). Thus, the very few "authentically cancelled" stamps, delivered in the mail system, are considered far more rare and much, much more valuable. Of course, faked, recently cancelled #111's are a great risk.

THE GENERATION NEWSLETTER

FEATURE SUBJECT, Cont'd ---

Therefore, I raise the question here, could "merit of valor in service" exceed a specimen's value in appearance. In this Colonial period, there were no replacements made to make up for lost or damaged coinage. Indeed, this was a case of survival of the most fortunate.

And, it seems only fair, that only those specimens that passed the test of experience through usage, should actually qualify for our recognition as genuine coinage of that period. While, those many uncirculated gems might qualify only as inexperienced standbys.

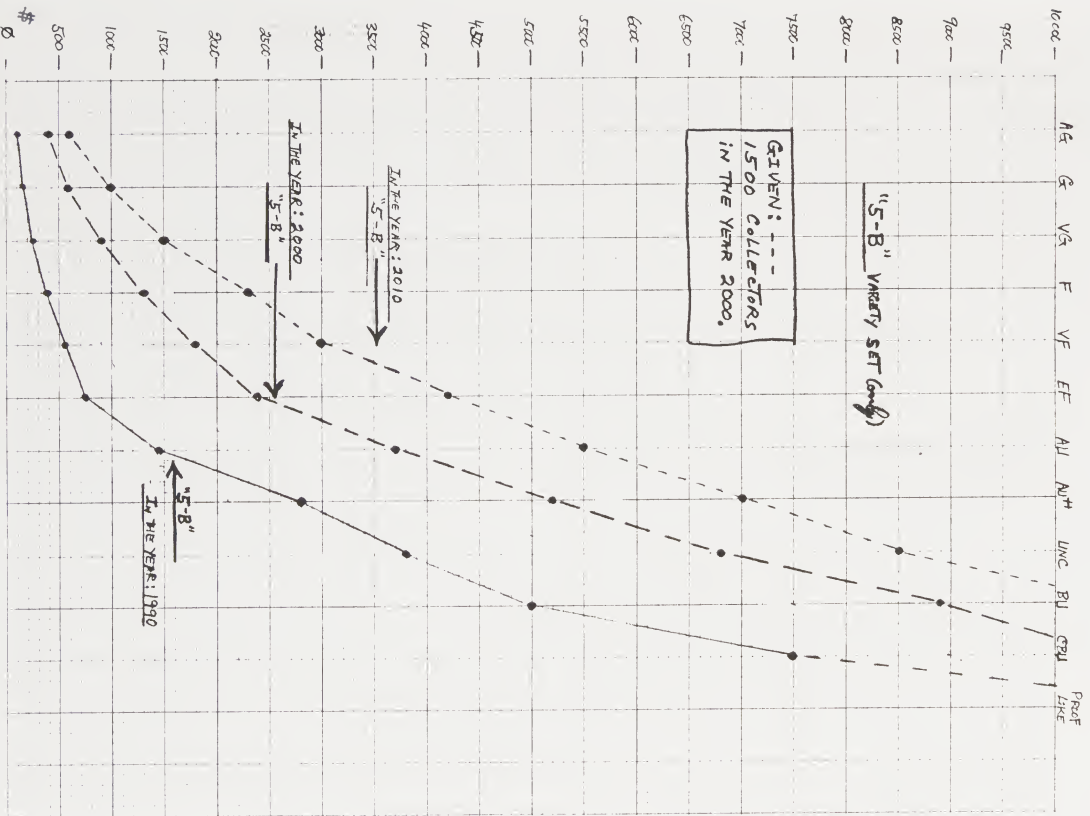
Again, which would you rather have? And why? Well, first of all, it might be wise to contemplate what the future could have in store for us. I believe that time will show us some startling changes are ahead, and that one might want to plan accordingly. Of course, not all such changes are necessarily going to be agreeable to each of us. But, I can foresee some implications that suggest that the following could occur (valuewise):

1. Rarer variety sets will escalate algebraically, regardless of their grade. (Regardless of the grade!!!)
2. This will be true for all Obverse/No period sets, altogether.
3. While the higher grades have been in "close hold" by their owners, the lower grades will become so scarce (in circulation) that sales valuations (market prices) will soar, much faster than for those of the brilliant uncirculated specimens, thus catching up in relative value to the Unc's.
4. Brilliant uncirculated specimens will be pushed upward in value by the rising lower grade specimens.
5. Eventually, the market will become frozen for a lack of readily available coins.
6. 3 or 4 collectors will eventually hold over 70% of the species, even those Obverses with a period after "S."

Behind some of the above offerings is an assumption: most collectors are profit oriented. One day, you may want to "cash in" after having "played the game" well. Or, it may just "get over one's head."

Another set of unseen factors that hopefully will contribute to the above changes (for the better) are 4 major developments that I hope to initiate, the first of which may come in the near future. That is not to imply that they will be completely under my control. Time will tell.

For just a moment, however, I'd like to digress a bit into the world of gazing at the future values of one of the more promising variety sets, that of the "5-B", no period, 6-string harp. Browse over the chart on the next page to compare and contrast the values in various grades, over the next 20 years. Beyond that, reason can not define the limits of its value.



THE GENERATION NEWSLETTER

FEATURE SUBJECT, Cont'd ---

Regardless, the end product is that these changes in future values will leads us to one inevitable trend: centralization

"Centralization" is a term that depicts those who would monopolize an entire issue of coinage. With such a small, single year, mintage produced for the 1773 Colonial Virginia copper Halfpenny, it is quite possible that a few parties will attract 70% or more of the entire issue, during the next 20 to 30 years.

In closing, I must say that I have not tried to propose my personal preference, here, in circulated vs. uncirculated. I have merely tried to make a good case for the seemingly much underrated circulated workhorses of a once current coinage in Virginia.

Coincidentally, I personally find it especially enjoyable to have "EF" and "lower grades," myself --- not for their direct value, but for their integrity and historic experience shared by them all.

Until our next Newsletter, I hope that some of you have taken an opportunity to inquire of some of the other members about their thoughts on some of the subjects you've seen presented here.

Sincerely,



William N. Veach
Founder/Editor



THE GENERATION NEWSLETTER
Of



The 1773 - Colonial Virginia Copper Halfpenny

W. N. Veach
Founder/Editor

Date: 01 August 1992
Vol.-01, Issue-07

"Resolve to protect its
historic integrity and
to promote its welfare"

Of General Interest

After being at long last recognized and most appropriately acclaimed by the state General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Virginia for his research, revealing insights into the uniqueness of the 1773 Colonial Virginia copper halfpenny, Eric P. Newman has at last been "presented" the original of the official House Joint Resolution # 271, while attending the A.N.S. special meeting 17 July 1992. Congratulations Eric.

MEMBERSHIPS: (24) Unchanged

Feature Subject

Even allowing for a 30% loss during the Copper Panic of 1789, and the relatively very few number of visible specimens of the 1773 Virginia copper halfpenny that have exchanged hands during the past 60 years, just where is this "Black Hole" that has so mysteriously consumed, or held out of view, as many as 380,000 of these coppers? Where are they now? Possibly worth close to \$300 million today, where could they be - - - safe and sound - - - all in the same place?

For your personal enjoyment and possible entertainment, I've enclosed a gift copy of my own self-published treatment of this lingering question in "The GOLD FROG (Riddle)."

Now that the challenge has been raised, will anyone be successful in finding the right answer? What old letters or diaries, both published or even private, might hold some relevant clue?

Enjoy.

Sincerely,

William N. Veach
William N. Veach

Encl: (1 book)
"The GOLD FROG (Riddle)"

THE 1773 - COLONIAL VIRGINIA COPPER HALFPENNY

"PHOENIX" PRICE LISTING

By: W.N. Veach

01 July 1992

											01 July 1992		
"Newman"	A	Est.*	After *										
Obv/Rev	R	Orig.	Meltg.										
(No Pd.)	P	Mintage	Pot	VG	Fine	VF	E Fine	AU	UNC	BU			
		(100%)	(67%)										
I - A	6	24	19	-- (No Defects/ Toning/ Rarely avail.)							\$17500		
10 - W	8	300	250	\$320	520	780	1100	1880	4200	7600			
5 - B	6	6200	3300	205	325	450	590	1090	2300	3800			
5 - Z	8	9000	6000	175	255	345	475	760	1380	1900			
3 - L1A	7	10200	6400	150	245	320	435	745	1180	1560			
2 - E	7	12000	8000	130	230	300	380	745	1170	1520			
16 - L1B	7	12500	8200	130	215	285	375	745	1160	1500			
14 - U1A	8	13000	8500	130	210	270	365	745	1160	1500			
4 - P	7	13300	8700	120	200	260	355	745	1160	1480			
11 - D	7	13600	8900	120	200	260	340	725	1160	1450			
12 - W	8	16100	9400	120	190	260	340	725	1145	1440			
13 - T	7	16300	10400	100	180	250	340	680	975	1375			
13 - V	8	17600	10700	100	180	250	340	630	895	1290			
3 - F	7	18700	11800	95	165	225	325	540	810	1160			
4 - O	7	19500	12900	90	160	215	310	415	750	1080			
9 - B	6	20200	14350	85	150	200	285	395	685	990			
6 - X	8	27000	18800	80	145	195	250	365	615	810			
7 - D	7	29000	19200	85	145	195	235	335	550	725			
8 - H	7	33500	20500	70	125	175	225	305	475	650			
4 - G	7	39000	23700	70	100	150	215	305	455	640			

S/T = 327000 210000

* Estimates for Original Mintage levels and for Net after Melting Pot are those of -- W.N. Veach (not Mr. Newman).

		H										
"Newman" A		Orig.	After									
Obv/Rev	R	Mintage	Pot	VG	Fine	VF	E Fine	AU	UNC	BU		
(W /Pd.)	P											
28 - N	7	8500	5700	\$195	260	350	500	800	1450	2250		
21 - N	7	14300	11600	100	170	240	340	560	860	1220		
15 - D	7	16700	13800	90	155	215	300	410	720	1040		
20 - N	7	23500	15100	85	145	200	280	390	650	930		
20 - X	8	25800	17300	85	135	185	260	375	635	860		
22 - S	7	30200	19400	80	115	165	230	335	540	700		
23 - R	7	31700	23900	70	95	135	195	305	455	640		
23 - Q	7	35000	27500	65	85	120	165	275	400	590		
26 - Y	8	37000	28200	65	85	110	145	240	385	560		
24 - K	7	39500	29100	65	85	105	135	220	365	550		
27 - J	7	40800	31500	55	75	95	130	210	345	540		
25 - M	7	42000	34900	55	75	95	120	200	340	530		

S/T = 345000 258000

TOTAL = 672000 468000

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***** The above prices are weighted towards the lower mintages remaining after the affects of the "Melting Pot" and other natural losses.

Stocks Sale 6/20/73

This specimen is perfectly centered and sharply struck on a perfect planchet. It is far superior to the plate coin. A deep olive brown with a proof-like surface, with glittering hints of blue. UNCIRCULATED.



Lot No. 811

14 was already
used by
New Netherlands
in 1967. This
might be
called 16-U.

- 841 **1773 Virginia Halfpenny.** No period. 8 Harpstrings. **A NEW VARIETY!** Hitherto unknown, and neither obverse or reverse is mentioned in either of Newman's aforementioned works. We'll have to call this Newman 14a. The distance between the centers of the two obverse periods is 32 64th of an inch. The first G is low. The final period is low. The reverse has the first leaf under the left edge of the upright of the first I. The R appears to be doublecut. The second I touches the branch. The third l slopes downward relative to the horizontal divider. Leaf ends under the central A and points to the right serif of the left leg of A. There is a die flaw at the foot of the right leg of A. There is a very definite center dot on the vertical divider. Perfectly centered and very sharply struck on a flawless planchet that is broader than the normal Halfpennies. Every tiny detail is very sharp and clear. A full proof-like surface. Deep olive with glittering golden pink and blue overtones. A beautiful and very important coin. Ex Brand Collection. UNCIRCULATED.

Colonial Virginia's Quest for Coinage

by Paul J. D'Arcy, ANA 129843

Throughout the colonial period of America's history, Virginia faced tremendous hardships in circulating and standardizing coinage. As an English colony, it struggled for more than a century before minting its own coins in the early 1770s.

Granted in 1606, the Virginia charter authorized the establishment and production of necessary coinage. Despite an ongoing demand for coins to pay plantation laborers throughout the colony, this power was never utilized. However, many attempts were made by the people and Assembly of Virginia to replace the supply of foreign coinage that was circulating.

In 1636 Governor John Harvey requested that British royal farthing tokens be introduced into the colony. Soon after, King Charles I suggested to the Virginia Assembly that Lord Maltraver, a British minter, supply the farthing tokens in exchange for a quantity of marketable Virginia products. Unfortunately, the plan was scuttled by colonists who felt that the farthings, whose circulating value was 20 times their intrinsic value, would be unacceptable to Virginia's merchants. Furthermore, it was known that the coins were commonly counterfeited in England, where they already circulated.

With such strong arguments against the importation of the farthing tokens, the Virginia Assembly opted to initiate production of £5,000 in silver coin per year for the colony. As an incentive, the Assembly proposed a 10-percent profit for

those who agreed to furnish the coins. Ignoring the Assembly's request, England licensed Lord Maltraver to produce the copper farthing tokens for Virginia. Understandably, Virginia refused to accept the tokens.

Meanwhile, Virginians were forced to use miscellaneous foreign gold and silver coinage for most transactions. Though circulated in the northern colonies, copper halfpence and farthings were shunned in Virginia because of their low intrinsic value and high face value. As the population of the colony increased, its people found themselves unable to pay laborers in coin. Merchants and other businessmen resorted to barter, and, much to the government's dismay, tobacco replaced copper money for most minor transactions.

In 1633 and again in 1642, the Virginia Assembly voted to outlaw the use of tobacco as money. Considering the chronic shortage of an alternative medium, the colonists chose to ignore the Assembly's orders. The Assembly later



Colonial Virginia's halfpence, once shunned by colonists, is now eagerly sought by collectors.

ANA MUSEUM

concluded that the production and circulation of a new system made up of copper 2, 3, 6 and 9 pence was imperative.

In a final effort to restore order to the colony's monetary situation, in 1645 the Assembly ordered that copper coins be produced to expedite simple trade and commerce, and that a portion of the coins' design should be changed on a yearly basis to foil counterfeiters. Furthermore, in Act XX the Assembly dictated that "all pecces of Eight in Spanish money be valued and taken in payment, att the rate of sixe shillings."

The coins specified by the Act were never produced. However, Act XX remains significant as having legalized the already common use of Spanish coins in Virginia.

Throughout the following decades, Virginia's continuing monetary problems complicated even the simplest forms of trade. In 1655, in an effort to conserve government funds, Virginia decided to devalue the Spanish piece of eight from 6 to 5 shillings sterling. This devaluation forced Virginians to spend their Spanish coins outside the colony, where the value remained comparatively high. Naturally, the resulting mass exportation of coins only worsened the already devastating coin shortage.

To remedy the problem, the Virginia Assembly passed special acts in 1710 and 1729 requesting the exportation of quantities of copper coins from England. To the colony's disappointment, both requests were denied. Virginia's depressed economy was no better than it was a century before.

In the latter half of the 18th century, George III was crowned in England. With a new king, Virginia renewed the movement for a solution to its money shortage. The colonists hoped that George III would be more sympathetic to their needs



England's King Charles I suggested that Lord Maltraver, a British minter, provide the colony of Virginia with farthing tokens.

than his predecessors. Yet, many doubted whether the people would, in turn, accept a copper coinage. The Virginia Assembly decided the colony had no other choice but to produce such coinage.

In 1769 the Virginia legislature submitted its first request to George III for copper coinage. After much debate, both in Virginia's House of Burgesses and England's Parliament, the request was approved in early 1773.

England authorized the production of 25 tons of copper halfpence at the Tower Mint in London. The dies, which were to be produced by the mint, would carry the bust of King George III, surrounded by the inscription GEORGIUS • III • REX.

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The reverse was to have a modified Virginia coat of arms, complemented by the word VIRGINIA and the date of issue.

Not until early 1774 did the first five tons of halfpence reach Virginia, only to be locked in storage. For nine months, 672,000 newly minted halfpence sat idle while the colony awaited approval from England. Finally, in early 1775, the coins were allowed to enter circulation in Virginia.

Soon after the halfpence was released, Virginia merchants realized that coins of similar intrinsic value circulated at a much higher face value in the New England colonies. (Typically, the values

of New England copper coins were between two-thirds and four-fifths pence.) As a result, merchants systematically exchanged their Virginia coinage in the northern colonies.

The effects of this migration were twofold. First, merchants spent a greater proportion of their income outside Virginia, thus draining the colony's economy. Second, the coin shortage, which the halfpence was intended to remedy, was worsened as the coins made their way north.

To further complicate matters, the American Revolution broke out only 50 days after the halfpence entered circulation. Surrounded by political confusion, colonists sought to replace rapidly depreciating colonial paper money with intrinsically valuable coins. Thus began the massive wartime hoarding of the Virginia halfpence.

Throughout the war, many colonial authorities, including Thomas Jefferson, attempted to reintroduce the devalued halfpence into circulation by officially raising its value to one penny. Such efforts were rejected by the legislature.

After more than a century of hard work and inconvenience, the Virginia halfpence failed because of widespread organizational and political problems. Ironically, the coin, shunned before its release because of its intrinsic value, was later hoarded for the same reason. Thankfully, the organizers of the United States of America learned from the successes and failures of Virginia's colonial coinage.

In the 200 years following its issuance, the Virginia halfpence has become increasingly popular among collectors. Early research documented the existence of 23 obverse dies and 23 reverse dies, constituting 29 separate varieties. Fur-



King George III approved Virginia's request for colonial copper coinage. His portrait appears on the obverse of the colony's halfpence, produced in 1773.

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thermore, a few pattern and proof half-
pence are known, with fewer than 20 of
each thought to exist today.

Because of early hoarding, quantities
of Virginia halfpence are available in
uncirculated condition. In fact, many of
these coins display a striking "mint
orange" color and original mint luster,
although most are slightly toned.
Naturally, significantly circulated
specimens also can be found. Like any
other colonial coin, the halfpence has an
exceedingly rich history and has become
a valuable memento of our nation's
infancy. Even today, the Virginia half-
pence remains a prized possession of
many a numismatist.

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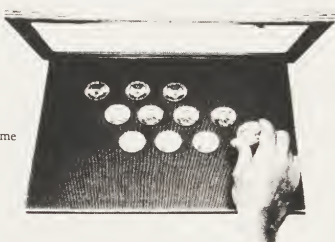
Twenty-year-old Paul D'Arcy is a sophomore at
Wesleyan University in Connecticut, where he
majors in government and women's studies. He
particularly enjoys collecting numismatic errors
and varieties.

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X UNTRACED CURIOSITIES IN THE AMERICAN COLONIAL SERIES by J. JAY FORD JR.

For the past several years, while actively engaged in numismatics, I have always been fascinated by the discovery, either in some old sale catalog or in one of the huge collections recently offered on the market, of unlisted, or generally unknown colonial coins. Many of these appear every so often, again to disappear when discovered by a specialist in the colonial series. Several are only known by their descriptions in early sale catalogs, and have never been seen by the collectors and dealers of today..

With the recently renewed interest in the colonial series, and the intense interest that the advanced collector and the specialist in these historical coins displays, the author thought it would be rather opportune to list and mention a very few of the odd and curious and perhaps attempt to discuss what little is known about them.

No attempt can be made, without months of research and an extremely thorough knowledge of early American coins, to write anything resembling a comprehensive article. There perhaps is no one with a complete access to the larger collections, or the patience to find out where many of these coins are today, and what definitely exists, what is false, the history behind each piece, or such definite information as would end all controversy about certain pieces.

I would like to list a very few coins and would appreciate hearing from anyone who has a vivid interest in the subject, and can contribute knowledge as to the whereabouts or story behind various of the following. Such information would no doubt be highly valued by serious collectors and would be a welcome addition to these pages.

Wyatt's frauds of the "NE" and "Pine Tree" series, need no introduction here. Mr. Sidney P. Noe in his excellent work on the New England and Willow Tree coinages, published as a *ANS* monograph in 1943, gives all of the available information on these so called coins and their originator, most of which is logical deduction, as so little is known in print concerning them. They comprise a series about which one is supposed to know, but many collectors and dealers too are completely unfamiliar with them. The set of "Wyatt's" fabrications consists of the "NE" shilling and sixpence, and a "Pine Tree" shilling, sixpence, threepence, twopence, and last, but not least, a penny, along with a "Good Samaritan" piece. They are more commonly found in silver, but are known in copper. These imitation coins are usually found in very choice condition, but sometimes the "NE" coins are found clipped and buffed, the latter in particular, to give an illusion of wear and authenticity. Thomas Wyatt was obviously an amateur numismatist with a leaning for enhancing his own collection by the exchange or sale of his frauds. It is believed, by most authorities, that Wyatt obtained the designs for his coins, which in no way closely resemble any original specimens, from a few genuine coins, but mainly from a lithographed plate from Felt's "An Historical Account of the Massachusetts Currency" which was published in Boston in 1839. He operated in New York and Boston, and his fabrications made their appearance in the middle fifties.

The notorious "Doctor Clay" sale, which was held in New York in 1871, and which was the talk of early numismatists for many years, contained a large number of extremely questionable colonial coins. The "NE" pieces were undoubtedly frauds as they were of incorrect weight. Lot No. 75 was a pine tree shilling with an impression of the monogram "NE" on the lower half

of the obverse. This very interesting coin was the cause of great debate when first presented for sale, but as the "NE" punchmark is on the lower half of the obverse and is definitely not an impression from the original punch we can be sure that this coin is nothing more than a curiosity.

Mr. Strowbridge as the cataloguer of the Clay sale gave little information on Lot No. 119 which was catalogued as an Oak Tree sixpence dated 1650, in very good condition. Little or nothing is known of the history or background of this piece. It was no doubt an altered date, and nothing more.

There were several other coins of the New England silver series in the Clay sale, that are of considerable interest. They are all undoubtedly frauds. There was a 1662, Oak Tree Penny, which was catalogued as the best of the two known specimens of the coin. There was no authority for the minting of "Penny" pieces, and we may assume that the cataloger, along with earlier interested numismatists, was misled by various early works on coins including the aforementioned "Felt's", and another volume, full of errors, published by a Martin Folkes in 1763, entitled "Tables of English Silver and Gold Coins." Both of the two specimens of the "Penny", as mentioned by Strowbridge, were alterations of the twopence, as they were examined by Crosby. There were also two so-called "NE" pennies in the same sale, which I believe is slightly over doing what originally might of been a good thing. One was struck on a soft white metal coated over with copper. The other was the "NE" and a "I" pinch, on an old copper French coin, which faintly bore the date 1565 on the reverse.

So far as we know, both of the above and the Pine Tree shilling with the "NE" punchmark are both probably examples of careless handling of an imitation "NE" punch.

I have found two examples of Pine Tree Shillings struck over other coins. In the Gersten collection there was a specimen struck over a well worn silver coin which bore a round shield or arms, intersected by a cross. From the plate available of the coin it undoubtedly is an impression of the Wyatt die. There is a story of an impression from a Pine Tree shilling die struck on a George I British halfpenny, and references to it have been found in an old premium catalog. It, as well as any other pine tree shillings struck in copper, are no doubt, as the first mentioned, trial or intended impressions from the Wyatt pine tree shilling die, or should we say what Wyatt intended to be a pine tree shilling die?

The London halfpenny token, which is normally found struck on a thick planchet, comes on a very thin planchet, and is also known in brass. The former are not uncommon, but the only example of the latter we have found is in the Clay collection, Lot #146. There is also an example, in the same sale, of a coin with the legend, "Preserve London", and not "God Preserve London". To this variety there is no other reference to be found.

Little or nothing is known of the official origin of the Virginia copper coinage of 1773, even though a studious numismatist and student, one Charles T. Tatman, tried to prove the coins were authorized by legislative and royal authority, by the publication of a pamphlet on the subject, in 1894. Atkins, in his well known work, "The Coins and Tokens of the British Empire", published in 1889, states that according to a Rev. H. Christmas, a specimen exists in bronze of the pattern for a silver shilling which is dated 1774, and which is a very rare and valuable coin. This piece in bronze we have never seen and can find no other reference to it.



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Member: ANA, ANS,
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ANA Historian

May 28, 1993

Mr. Eric P. Newman
6450 Cecil Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63105

Dear Eric:

I have enclosed a set of 2x enlargements of the 1773 Virginia halfpenny I spoke to you about some weeks ago.

The coin comes from Stack's stock. I do not know how long it's been there but it seems likely that it was in the store for quite a while. The surfaces are brightly reflective (although the photos do not show this) and the coin had been called a "proof" 1-A by some previous owner. Of course it's not a 1-A and in my opinion the surface quality is not as good as I've seen on most 1-A's. I do not think it is a proof.

I've tried matching the dies to those you published in your study and supplement without success. The reverse should have been easy to find since it's an 8 strings variety. I wonder if you've seen these dies before in this combination? Your advice would be greatly appreciated.

You may keep the photos. If you could reply to me at my home I would appreciate it. The coin is to be included in Stack's September sale later this year and I'm now under catalogue deadline for the copy.

Thanking you in advance for your assistance, I am

yours truly

Michael Hodder



Feb 1903
from Hodder



Jan 8, 1943
from Hedder

Virginia charter granted right to make coins

By R.W. Julian

It has long been an article of faith among historians that the American colonies, under Great Britain, suffered from neglect more than anything else. This is especially true for the coinage because London simply was not interested in providing a good supply of silver and gold coins for the colonial marketplace.

In all fairness to the British, however, they were unable to furnish sufficient coins for their own population, let alone those far across the ocean. Yet, when the colonies attempted to strike their own coinage, as in the case of Massachusetts and its famous Pine Tree shilling, the authorities in London eventually managed to shut down the mint.

The one exception to all of this was Virginia. In the original charter of 1606, when that colony was first settled, the London government gave the colonists the right of coinage. It is true that on several occasions the Virginia authorities considered having coins made, but there was always the problem of paying for them and there the matter rested for more than 160 years.

However, in the years after 1750 the lack of small change made it very difficult for merchants in Virginia (and elsewhere as well) to conduct business. This made life difficult for the common people, although it is true that much of the ordinary trade in the colonies was still carried on by barter rather than in coin. There simply wasn't enough hard money to go around.

Finally, at the end of the 1760s the Virginia House of Burgesses, as the legislature was then called, acted on the complaints coming in from citizens and merchants. The Treasurer of the colony, Robert Carter Nicholas, was authorized to have copper halfpence struck under the terms of the 1606 charter.

In those days, for practical reasons, a colonial government would often work through a private firm to accomplish certain types of activities. In this case Treasurer Nicholas chose John Norton & Sons, who had an office in London. The Norton company received a small fee for its services, but in turn saw to all the necessary details of the coinage.

There were protracted negotiations with the British Treasury in London, through Norton & Sons, over the numerous details involved with any coinage. The weight and size of the coins had to be decided, though this was, to a certain extent, determined by the legal weight of British halfpence then being coined in London.



Virginia halfpence were an authorized coinage, bearing George III's portrait.

Because the Virginians did not want the full-weight halfpence, they insisted that 60 pieces (7.56 grams per coin) be struck from a pound of copper as opposed to the 48 specimens on the British standard. This change of weight required a fresh action on the part of the House of Burgesses, which was duly accomplished in 1772.

Finally, after seemingly endless negotiations, King George III signed in May 1773 a royal warrant permitting the London Mint to strike the Virginia halfpence. The warrant authorized the coinage of 25 tons of coins, considerably more than the five tons requested by the colonial authorities.

In the meantime the engraving department of the London Mint had been preparing drawings for the proposed coinage. Available documents do not specify who was responsible for the accepted design, nor the name of the person who actually prepared the dies. In the latter case, however, it was probably either Thomas Pingo or Richard Yeo. The writer opts for Yeo, on the grounds that this was the real name of Richard Yeoman, "Red Book" editor for many years; perhaps the earlier Yeo was a relative.

The obverse has a well-executed bust of George III, facing to the right, surrounded by the legend GEORGIUS III REX (King George III). The reverse has a coat of arms with the legend VIRGINIA 1773. It was not normal practice in England at this time to put a coat of arms on the copper coinage and the Virginia reverse is actually similar to the contemporary British gold coinage.

During the late summer of 1773 the London Mint struck some five tons of coins for Virginia, which works out to about 672,000 pieces. Once they were struck, Norton & Sons arranged for the necessary casks to hold the coins

securely. These were then taken to the London docks, where shipping had been arranged. All of this took time and it was not until February 1774 that the coins actually arrived in Virginia.

One would think that once the coins were on hand it would have been a simple task to start paying them out to citizens and merchants. Such was not the case, however, as Virginia Treasurer Robert Carter Nicholas was a consummate bureaucrat at heart. He made certain that every possible legal formality was observed before even considering their circulation.

As a result of the legalistic delays, it was not until March 1775 that Nicholas began to distribute the coins. It was not the best of times to release base coins into the marketplace because the American Revolution was just then beginning to become a reality. The Battle of Concord came the following month.

It is an old axiom that when times become difficult and war is in the air, the public holds coins faster than they can be struck. The year 1775 was certainly no different and, despite Nicholas' paying out the new halfpence, they were quickly swallowed up by a nervous public. Very few were to be seen in circulation.

In 1776 Thomas Jefferson suggested that the Virginia halfpence be doubled in value to one penny but this was not done because they would not have circulated anyway. He later (1782) stated that copper coins had not been used in Virginia before the Revolution and has been criticized for ignoring the Virginia pieces in light of his suggestion about revaluation. A careful examination of what he said, however, shows that he understood the situation perfectly and modern critics do not.

That the coins circulated to a very limited extent is true. Archaeologists have found such pieces in various exca-

vations, including Colonial Williamsburg. Many of these were probably pocket pieces, however, and easily lost.

It is not known how many of the halfpence were paid out by the Virginia Treasury, but perhaps 50,000 pieces would be a reasonable estimate. The rest of the pieces were stored, awaiting better times. Better times never came because the king was overthrown in America and few wanted English royal coinage. Most of the remainder were probably melted during the war for military purposes as there is always a pressing demand for copper in desperate times.

A certain portion of the coins were laid aside, however, and some of these found their way to Col. Mendes I. Cohen, an early Baltimore merchant. He purchased several thousand pieces, but the exact amount is not on record. He sold some of them to friends, but most of the hoard was kept in the family.

About 1875 the Cohen heirs began to quietly sell off the Virginia halfpence from the hoard. This was done carefully so as to not depress the price. They had far more coins than there were collectors! The last of the pieces was not sold off until nearly 1930, probably some thing of a record for one family selling coins from a hoard.

Because of the Cohen hoard, which consisted of mint-red uncirculated specimens, this grade of coin is not all that rare. In 1996 *North American Coins & Prices* the value of \$400 is given for the most common variety in uncirculated. In fine condition the tab is a very modest \$50.

As was usual in the 1770s, varieties were made for collectors, including a few proofs in silver. These are quite rare, as are some copper proofs struck on planchets intended for the Irish copper coinage.

One of the more imaginative explanations for this coin was in the book *Coins, Medals, and Seals* by W.C. Prime. He repeated an old rumor that the coat of arms on the reverse had been specially placed there in commemoration of Virginia offering to shelter Charles II after 1649 when Cromwell seized control of England. (Charles became king in 1660 when the Commonwealth collapsed.)

In the 19th century many numismatists believed that the Virginia halfpences were some kind of token coinage, perhaps struck by a private merchant for circulation in America. It was not until the 1980s, and careful research by Eric P. Newman, that the true nature of these interesting little pieces came to light.

Chicago International Coin Fair scheduled for March 29-31, featuring more than 100 dealers

The Chicago International Coin Fair, the largest show in the United States devoted exclusively to international numismatics, will be held March 29-31 at the Sheraton Chicago Hotel & Towers, 301 E. North Water St.

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the world will be of bourse.

Two major auctions are scheduled in conjunction with the show. Harlan J. Berk Ltd. of Chicago will conduct an ancient coins sale, and Ponterio & Associates of San Diego, Calif., will have a world numismatic sale.

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show, contact Kevin Foley, Convention Manager, P.O. Box 513, Milwaukee WI 53201; phone (414) 282-2388; fax (414) 282-3528.

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isolated finds of farthings: a 1718 farthing found in the wreck of the sloop *Boscawen* (see George Bass, ed. *Ships and Shipwrecks of the Americas*, (London, 1988, p. 146) and a 1720 farthing found around Fort St. Joseph, Michigan; see "Thrilled by Georgian Coppers? It depends on where you find them! An Etching of Michigan's Colonial Past" in *The Searcher* (Grayshott, Hindhead, Surrey, England, April 1991) vol. 6 No. 8, pp. 34-35.

Mr. Oppenheim is probably right about the prevalence of George I and George II farthings, and the scarcity of George III; the 1774 George III farthing is the only documentation of a George III farthing found in North America that I have come across so far. There are fashions in coppers just as in everything else, and the seventeenth century liked their coppers to be farthing size or smaller, the later eighteenth and early nineteenth century liked larger, halfpenny size coppers, and around about the middle of the nineteenth century the fashion swung back to small size coppers again. (This is one of the reasons I decided that the New Yorke in America token had to be of seventeenth century rather than eighteenth century manufacture.) The authorities clearly thought that farthings served some purpose, though, because the two state mints set up on United States soil in the eighteenth century, the Boston mint and the Philadelphia mint, both coined farthings - although they called them half cents. Bob Julian at one point made the observation to me that half cents were fairly essential, so long as the Spanish colonial silver continued to circulate; people want to get their 2 1/2 cents back when they tender a real for a dime purchase. He believes that occasional minting of half cents or half dimes or the like by the Philadelphia mint is related to the fluctuating supplies of Spanish colonial silver. This may apply to farthings as well.

I have been told of one counterfeit farthing (albeit George II) which I believe to be of American manufacture, and that is a cast counterfeit 1749 farthing, which Philip Mossman owns. There were so many genuine 1749 farthing and halfpence in circula-

tion in the thirteen colonies and the early United States that most cast counterfeits of that date are probably of American manufacture.

□ □ □

And now a new "Ask the Editors" question from John Kleeberg:

AE-15 The Mendes Cohen Hoard of Virginia Halfpence

Now, since the interesting thing about CNL is the questions, and it is unfair to answer questions without providing new ones to puzzle over:

I would like to know more about the Mendes Cohen hoard of Virginia halfpence. Were all the die varieties now known to us represented in it, or just certain die varieties? On looking through the ANS collection of Virginia halfpence, I note the following varieties with the characteristic brilliant red uncirculated look of specimens from the hoard: Newman varieties 4-G (two examples), 6-X, 20-N, 20-X, 22-S, 23-Q, 24-K, 25-M (three examples), 27-J, 26-Y and 27-J. Two specimens are worn enough that they certainly do not come from that hoard: 8-H and 20-N (note that the ANS thus has 20-N in both uncirculated condition ex Cohen and in well circulated condition). There are also two coins which *possibly* come from the Cohen hoard: 3-F and 7-D. These coins are in uncirculated condition, but they do not have the mint-red look of Cohen coins. There are two specimens depicted in the plates in Newman's book which are worn enough that they cannot come from the Cohen hoard, namely obverses 8 and 9. I also note that Breen, in his pioneering January 1952 article on American coin hoards, says (p. 17) "Rumor has it that the find was made in one of the government buildings in Annapolis." I presume this rumor is a red herring, and that Newman's identification of the find spot as Richmond, and the date of the acquisition of the hoard to between 1780-1803 by Israel Cohen (as

Newman explains in his 1962 "Additions to Coinage for Colonial Virginia") supersedes Breen's earlier conjectures. In his *Encyclopedia*, Breen gives Richmond as the findspot for the Cohen hoard.

First - -
some thoughts from
CNL Associate Editor Mike Hodder

Mike Hodder replies that Kleeberg has answered the first part of his own question: not all Newman varieties were in the Cohen Hoard since not all known routinely survive in red uncirculated condition. Mike knows of no inventory record of the Cohen Hoard of Virginia halfpence that would reflect Eric Newman's variety listings. Virginia's are a generally neglected issue. Most collectors want just one, for the type. A few collect the two Red Book "types" (i.e., with and without a stop after GEORGIVS). A tiny few collect by Newman numbers, but so few that the major auction houses don't bother varietizing the Virginia's they catalogue. If curator Kleeberg wanted to do a statistical analysis of the Virginia varieties often found in spotty red uncirculated condition he'd possibly wind up with an approximation of the ones that were originally represented in the Cohen Hoard. The work would not be easy or quickly finished, however, and much varietizing would have to be done from catalogue illustrations and thus would not be entirely reliable.

And - -
some observations from
CNL Associate Editor Gary Trudgen

I scanned Veach's "The Generation Newsletter of The 1773 - Colonial Virginia Copper Halfpence" for any information he may have published on the subject hoard and found nothing.

Since the Cohen family slowly sold off the hoard until 1929 and Newman didn't study the die varieties until 1956, die variety information could have never been compiled on the hoard. The only way this could be accom-

plished today would be for someone to slowly compile die variety information on specimens that are uncirculated with mint red showing. Of course, this method would be open to error because there may be some mint red coins extant which aren't from the hoard. Nevertheless, it should be a good approximation of what varieties were in the Cohen hoard. Unfortunately auction records would be almost useless in this exercise because catalogers seldom attribute Virginia halfpence by die variety. So the researcher would have to survey collectors, study institution collections, etc. to obtain his data.

And finally - -
from ye Editor

As always - comments from our Patrons on this subject will be sincerely appreciated. Our Editors are knowledgeable but certainly not all-knowing. We can kick-off a discussion but we need follow-up from our Patrons as well.

I suppose that it is unnecessary to remind our Patrons regarding these various discussions of die varieties of Virginia Halfpence of 1773 in the Cohen Hoard that Eric Newman's work on the *Coinage for Colonial Virginia* was not published until 1956 (as Gary indicated) as ANS Numismatic Notes and Monographs No. 135. Accordingly, there is no way that an accurate tabulation of die varieties in the Cohen Hoard can be accomplished; only roughly approximated as Mike Hodder has pointed out.

To further compound the problem it is almost impossible, today, to build a die variety set of 1773 Virginia Halfpence simply because our numismatic dealers are not sufficiently qualified in the series to attribute the coins by the Newman die designations. Ye Editor knows of only two or three individuals whom he would trust to accurately identify these die varieties - - even the acquisition of a set of full tone photographs is almost impossible. If any of our Patrons can furnish photographs of these die varieties it would be very helpful. CNL has been attempting to accomplish this feat for a number of years but has been notably unsuccessful.

JCS



176. 1766 PITT HALF PENNY EF45 82.3 gns. Very dark brown obverse with light chocolate breaking through in spots from a lower layer of patination, glossy but rough in places. Reverse toning more even and slightly lighter with chocolate accents except at the upper right portion of the ship merging into the field where the surface is quite rough and shows evidence of original tinning, a type of wash known on, but infrequently found on this issue. A few pin scratches just to the right of that area. Legends, date, and design elements crisp.

177. 1766 PITT HALF PENNY F12 83.8 gns. Lovely smooth and glossy honey brown surfaces. The obverse displays complete legends and date (the tops to 66 are soft). On the reverse FRIENDS and LIBERTY are incomplete and AMERICA is missing the last 2 letters. This is partially the result of a mild bend in the planchet, not easily noticed unless the coin is placed on its reverse so that it can "rock" slightly. Still, it is extremely difficult to find this color and surface on a lower, or for that matter, any grade example.

CHOICE MINT STATE VIRGINIA HALF PENNY



178. 1773 VIRGINIA HALF PENNY - PERIOD AFTER GEORGIUS MS63 126.0 gns. Predominantly light brown, mellowing from mint color, but with substantial original red on both sides. Blemish free near proof like surfaces. Most attractive, an excellent type coin.

**DISCOVERY SPECIMEN NEWMAN 14-E
1773 VIRGINIA HALF PENNY**



179. 1773 VIRGINIA HALF PENNY - NO PERIOD AFTER GEORGIUS NEWMAN 14-E DISCOVERY COIN EF40 108.8 gns. From New Netherlands 59th Sale 6/67 lot 1060 where it received a major write up and was plated. There quite conservatively called "Very Fine" but with consistent strong detail and rather hard and glossy surfaces associated with upper grade pieces. Dark olive brown and completely free of any and all problems, this could make a highly attractive circulated example of the No Period type, but in fact it is a high rarity. Many collectors are unaware of the die classification system devised for Virginia Halfpennies by Eric Newman. His book "Coinage for Colonial Virginia", which was published by the American Numismatic Society as Numismatic Notes and Monographs No. 135 in 1956 remains the standard reference. Over two dozen specific die combinations are known. This combination represented a new obverse combined with a known reverse at the time of discovery. By now a few combinations not listed in Newman's work are known, some reported and described in The Colonial Newsletter. Probably the finest collection of Virginia Halfpennies ever offered was the Robert Vlack collection sold by New England Rare Coin Galleries in March 1976. It had 24 varieties (with diagnostic descriptions), not counting the rare Virginia Penny, and it is significant that it lacked this combination (Stack's 10/84 Picker Sale with 14 varieties also lacked N.14-E; it also contains useful reference material). We are unaware whether any other examples of this variety have been identified since its discovery. Most Virginia Halfpennies currently offered are done so without specific die attribution. It is ironic that in prior decades examples of State Coinages were less frequently attributed than today while greater attention was paid to a series like this. Certainly it is possible for today's collectors to pursue this series by specific dies also, undoubtedly at times being offered rarer varieties at common type prices.

EXQUISITE PROOF 1773 VIRGINIA POTOTYPE HALF PENNY



180. 1773 VIRGINIA PROTOTYPE HALF PENNY ("PENNY") NEWMAN 1-A, BREEN 179 (R-6) PROOF 65 135.9 gns. An exquisite example with magnificent surfaces. It is truly perfect. Absolutely free of marks or spots, each side is a mirror resplendent in subtle tones. Gold features prominently as does rose, with blue, violet and a pale iridescent green also present. As would be expected the strike is needle sharp. In Stack's catalog of the John Roper Collection it was estimated that perhaps 20 exist. Certainly one of the highlights of this, or virtually any, sale of Colonials. The difference between these prototypes and conventional Virginia Halfpennys, though clear enough, is perhaps not as obvious as it might seem. Readers receiving their prices realized from this year's A.N.A. Sale might be shocked to see that an unplaned "Virginia Halfpenny MS62 Brown Old Cleaning" realized just shy of \$6,000. It was of course an impaired Proof "Penny" (as they are frequently but inaccurately called) lacking the surfaces one assumes of a Proof specimen, and certainly not in a class with this coin. Prototypes such as this are heavier, approximately 135 grains rather than the 117 grain standard of conventional issues. According to Newman they were coined on Irish halfpenny planchets. They are broader with sharply defined beading and they have a small 7 in the date.